

THE  
B A C H E L O R  
O F  
S A L A M A N C A,  
O R  
M E M O I R S

O F  
*Don Cherubim de la Ronda.*

---

In three PARTS.

---

Written originally in *French*, by  
*Mr. LE SAGE*; *Author of the Devil upon Two*  
*Sticks, and Gil Blas.*

---

Translated by Mr. *LOCKMAN*.

---

D U B L I N :

Printed by P. W O G A N, No. 23, *Old-Bridge*, and  
L. W H I T E, No. 86, *Dame-Street*.

M,DCC,LXXXIV.





## PREFACE by the TRANSLATOR.

I were needless to expatiate in praise of a book, the name of whose author is its elogium, and cannot but prejudice the reader in its favour. The same peculiar vein of humour which so agreeably distinguishes all the compositions of Mr. Le Sage, runs through every part of the following work, which although comprised in so narrow a compass, contains a great number of adventures, that afford a pleasing entertainment, by the happy manner in which they are diversified. The obstacles which are artfully raised in the course of the various adventures, are removed naturally; and as the several incidents arise one out of another; they all terminate very naturally, although unexpectedly, in the catastrophe.

ONE character I believe, (from the manner of our author's drawing it) will be found new; and that is, where the Bachelor of Salamanca is introduced as exercising the profession of a tutor. On this occasion, Mr. Le Sage hath set the ridiculous fondness of many parents; the fantastical humours of children; and the Gothic slavery which tutors undergo in some families, in so just and whimsical a light, as makes the several pictures equally instructive and diverting. Carambola, the diminutive licentiate, is a true comic character.

THIS work, although of the romantic kind, may yet be considered, in some measure, as a true history; most of the incidents in it, if not copied from the life, being such as either have occurred, or may daily happen. This is a characteristic which gives a merit to all our author's productions; and shews him to be very well acquainted with human nature, and particularly happy in discovering the ridicule of it.

WITH regard to the following version, I have endeavoured to give it the air of an original, and consequently have been far from translating my author literally. Although  
some

#### iv PREFACE by the TRANSLATOR.

Some persons approve of the latter method, yet all judges know that if pieces of wit and humour are not rendered by equivalents (at least as near as possible) they are found quite flat and spiritless in translation. Upon the whole, I flatter myself, that the ensuing sheets, will afford some little amusement to the public; and I was the more inclined to make them this present, as our theatres have so long been barren, with respect to new entertainments.

I shall conclude, with the character which some ingenious foreigners have given of our work.

‘Mr. Le Sage, is author of the Bachelor of Salamanca. This the public would have discovered had his name not been advertised to it. It is writ in the same taste and in the same style as the rest of the works which have been published under that author’s name, and cannot fail of increasing his reputation. It consists of incidents which have nothing of the Marvellous, either in themselves, or with respect to the persons to whom they happen; for which reason they must necessarily please all readers of taste. The Marvellous tires the imagination, and becomes puerile when carried too far: but nature on the contrary, amuses and diverts it.’ *Journal Litteraire, de l’Année 1736. seconde parte, pag. 477.*

See also an ingenious work, entitled, *Observations sur les Ecrisits Modernes*, Tom. IV. pag. 346, just printed at Paris. The author gives still a greater eulogium of the Bachelor of Salamanca.

THE



# THE CONTENTS.

## BOOK I. PART I.

- C**HAP. I. Of the family and education of Don Cherubim. Page 1
- Chap. II. Of the first family where Don Cherubim was Tutor. 8
- Chap. III. Don Cherubim offers his service to a counsellor of the council of Castile. His conversation with that Magistrate. 12
- Chap. IV. The friar of the order of Mercy places the Bachelor in the Marquis de Burendia's family. 16
- Chap. V. The Bachelor is tutor to a Contador or banker's son. 23
- Chap. VI. Of the adventures which befel the Bachelor after his going from the Contador's. 28
- Chap. VII. In what manner Don Cherubim, just as he was going to become Doña Louisa's husband, found his hopes frustrated on a sudden. 36
- Chap. VIII. Of the arrival of Don Cherubim at Toledo, and of the first family in which he was a tutor. 41
- Chap. IX. Of the conversation which Don Cherubim had with a Biscayan tutor. 48
- Chap. X. Our Bachelor is preceptor to a jeweller's nephew in Cuenca. 59
- Chap. XI. Don Cherubim returns to Madrid, and there meets accidentally with a man who gives him some account of Donna Louisa. 64
- Chap. XII. The reception which Don Cherubim

## *The* CONTENTS.

- bim met with from the viceroy, and their conferences. Page 72
- Chap. XIII. Don Juan Tellez marries the duke d'Uzeda's daughter. Sequel of this marriage. Don Cherubim falls into a new way of Life. 79
- Chap. XIV. Don Cherubim meets with Carambola the diminutive Licentiate. The conversation they had together. 82
- Chap. XV. Don Cherubim gets acquainted with a gentleman named Don Manuel de Pedrilla. In what manner they passed their time together; and how agreeably Don Cherubim was surprized at supper. 87

## BOOK II.

- C**HAP. I. Don Cherubim de la Ronda goes and dines with his sister, on which occasion they relate to each other the several adventures that had befallen them since their separation. 93
- Chap. II. Donna Francisca waits upon the countess de St. Agni. The reception she met with, and the conversation she had with her. Character of that countess. 107
- Chap. III. In what city Francisca and Damián agreed to settle, and the adventures which befel them in it. 115
- Chap. IV. Of the new conquests which Donna Francisca made in Corduba. 123
- Chap. V. Who Don Pompeyo was. His ingenuous confession, and the proposal he made to Donna

## *The* CONTENTS.

- Donna Francisca, after their marriage. 137
- Chap. VI. Donna Francisca enters into the company of comedians in Granada. The reception she met with from the public; and the great number of noblemen who were captivated by her charms. 141
- PART II. Chap. VII. Of the new presents which the count made Donna Francisca; the high regard he had for her; and in what manner their amour ended. 151
- Chap. VIII. What happened to Donna Francisca, after the departure of count de Cantillana. 161
- Chap. IX. Of the fatal accident which happened at Caralla, and the consequence of it. 167
- Chap. X. The conversation which Donna Francisca had with Don Cherubim, after she had told her several adventures. 171
- Chap. XI. Don Cherubim goes and lives with his sister. The high regard that was paid him, when he was known to be Basilia's brother. 173
- Chap. XII. The ill success of the service which Don Cherubim endeavoured to do Don Andrew his friend. 179
- PART III. Chap. I. Don Manuel being obliged to return to his native place, prevails with Don Cherubim to accompany him. Their arrival in Alcaraz. 183
- Chap. II. Don Cherubim gains his mistress's affection. Don Ambrosia de Lorca is very urgent with Don Manuel to give him his sister



## *The* CONTENTS.

- sister in marriage, but is refused. The consequence of this refusal. Page 189
- Chap. III. What course Don Manuel and Don Cherubim took after this adventure. 193
- Chap. IV. The turn which Don Cherubim and Don Manuel's affair took, by the interposition of father Théodore. The sudden resolution taken by Don Cherubim, and the manner in which he put it in execution. 198
- Chap. V. In what manner the fervour of Don Cherubim cooled, after he had spent six months in his novitiate. Of his leaving the convent, and the new course of life he took. 207
- Chap. VI. Don Cherubim's dream, and the sudden change that was wrought in his circumstances. 214
- Chap. VII. The story heard by Don Cherubim, which prevents his marrying Signior Gaspar's daughter. 225
- Chap. VIII. Don Cherubim arrives in Alcazar. The condition in which he finds Don Manuel and his sister, and the reception he meets with from them. 229
- Chap. IX. By what chance Don Cherubim heard of his sister, and how he was affected with the news. He marries Donna Paula. 233
- Chap. X. Don Cherubim gets acquainted with a certain gentleman. The consequences of it 236
- Chap. XI. The journey which the three gentlemen took to the mansion-house of Villardesaz, and the consequences of it. Conclusion of the history of the Bachelor of Salamanca. 243

THE

---

THE  
B A C H E L O R  
O F  
S A L A M A N C A.

---

B O O K I.

---

C H A P. I.

*Of the family and Education of Don  
Cherubim.*

I O W E my birth to Don Roberto de la Ronda, who, leaving the neighbourhood of Malaga, where he was born, went and settled in the province of Leon. He was there appointed secretary to Don Sebastian de Cespedez, corregidor of Salamanca, who made him alcalde of Molorido, a great market town in the confines of that city.

My

My father, by virtue of his employment, assumed the title of Don; and by good luck no one disputed it with him. Having been always fond of pleasure, and of a generous temper, he saved so little money, that being snatched from his family in his prime, he scarce left a moderate competency for his widow, and three children. I was at that time, a student with Don Cæsar, my elder brother, in the university of Salamanca, and it would have been hardly possible for us to pursue our studies, had we not been assisted by the Corregidor, in whom we found a second father. This nobleman did not let us want for any thing: he had a tender affection for us; and every time we went to pay him our respects, he declared that he looked upon us as his children: perhaps we really were so; and, yet I can hardly think it, notwithstanding that my Mother was thought to be wantonly inclined. Unfortunately for us, our generous patron died before we had left the university; so that, being now reduced to our bare patrimony, which was far from sufficient to maintain us, we were forced to throw ourselves into the arms of providence. Don Cæsar, having an inclination for a military life, entered into a regiment of horse, which, by order of the court, was marching to Milan. With regard to myself, an old kinsman, who was a doctor in the university, discovering a great friendship for me, I accepted.



cepted the generous offer he made, viz. of boarding me at his house. Thus, my mother having now no children to provide for, but Francisca my sister, who was but seven years old, was able to maintain herself and the child in a decent and very comfortable manner.

I MADE so happy a progress in my Studies at the university, that the only talk there was of Don Cherubim de le Ronda. By the extraordinary talent I had for disputation, I made a great figure in philosophy; in a word, my application was such, that I took my bachelor's degree with uncommon applause.

BUT, now my friend the doctor, who perhaps grew weary of quartering me (for the old gentleman was a dear lover of money) spoke as follows. Cousin Cherubim, you are come to an age, in which it is proper for a young man to think of settling; and you now are able to support yourself in a genteel manner, without the assistance of friends; I mean by turning tutor, which is the best course of life you can possibly strike into. Go to Madrid, and you will easily get into some family, where, after having brought up your pupil, you will either have a pension for life, or at least a benefice.——Cherubim, your abilities are great, and you have a very sage aspect: nature certainly designed you for a tutor.

HAY-

HAVING known two or three tutors in Salamanca, who seemed very well satisfied with their condition, I figured to myself that their profession must be a very agreeable one; and therefore the old doctor was not obliged to employ much rhetoric, to persuade me to devote myself to it. I told him, that I was very willing to set out; and accordingly, after returning him thanks for all his civilities, I hired a mule, and went for Madrid, with my trunk, in which were all my effects, consisting of two or three shirts, my bachelor's gown, and a few pistoles which I had squeezed out of the old man, in spite of his avarice.

BEING arrived at Madrid, I alighted at a handsome house, which took in boarders, and was at that time almost full of gentlemen. I soon got acquainted with them, but became particularly intimate with the parish-priest of Leganez, who was come to Madrid upon an affair of very great importance. He acquainted me with the motives of his journey, and I told him the business I was come upon.

I HAD no sooner informed him that I intended to turn tutor, but he made such a wry face, as makes me almost split my sides every time I think of it.——I pity you, good Mr. Bachelor, says he; what is it you are about? How odd a profession are you going to follow! do you know the obligations it will bring upon you? you must sacrifice your liberty, your pleasure, and the  
most

most beautiful season of life to painful and tedious duties. You will undertake the education of a child, who, how virtuous a disposition soever he may have received from nature, will still have some faults. You must be for ever employed in infusing the principles of knowledge into his mind, and in forming his soul to virtue. You must combat his silly whims, conquer his indolence, and correct his temper.

BUT, the uneasiness which your pupil must unavoidably bring upon you will, not be all; for you will be forced to bear with the caprice of his parents, and even sometimes submit to the most shocking insults. Do not fancy therefore that the tutor's life is pleasant and happy. So far from it, it is rather a state of captivity, to reduce ourselves to which (like as when a person resolves to assume a religious habit) we ought to be something more, or something less than man.

BE assured (added the parish-priest of Leganez) that all I have told you is fact. I myself was employed in the business, which you intend to follow. Next to a bishop's chaplain, I cannot name so miserable a state of life: I know it but too well. I was intrusted with the education of the son of an alcalde of the court; and cannot indeed say that my cares and fatigues were all bestowed to no purpose, since I owe my parsonage to them; but then I can justly affirm, that I paid very

B

dear



dear for it. I spent eight years in a more cruel state of slavery than that which the christians undergo in Barbary. My pupil, who perhaps, was the most unfit child in the world for a polite education, was not only stupid by nature; but also had a mortal aversion to every thing, that bears the name of order and submission; so that I toiled and sweated to no purpose, and found that it was like writing upon the sand. However, I should have borne all this with patience, had the alcalde done me justice, and not been so entirely blinded by paternal fondness; but as he could never persuade himself that the boy was so very stupid, as I knew him to be, he used to rail at me; would reproach me for the little improvement he made; and, a circumstance which affected me no less than his unjust reproaches, he always employed the most opprobrious terms on those occasions.

THUS, continued the parish-priest was I equally tormented, but in a different manner, both by father and son. And as to the servants, they were so many disturbers of my repose; watchful spies, and impertinents, who never shewed me the least respect.—A most shameful family, says I to the parish-priest; but methinks, it was very happy you did not leave it unrecompenced. Very true, says he; but I am to inform you, that near a thousand crowns are still owing to me; which however the generous alcalde never intends to pay,

pay, or rather which he imagines is overpaid, by the benefice he procured me. But doth not your pupil, says I, shew his gratitude for all the pains you took with him? Is he not wonderfully complaisant, whenever you meet together? I never see him, replied the parish-priest. The youth was no sooner from under my care, but he forgot both his Latin, and his Master.

SUCH were the particulars which the parish-priest of Leganez told me, to dissuade me from turning tutor. But notwithstanding his sage admonitions, they yet made no more impression upon me, than those exhortations do which are bestowed on a girl of eighteen, to divert her from marrying. The parish-priest perceived this; and therefore justly supposing that his advice would be lost upon me, he went on thus. I find that it will be to no purpose to oppose your resolution; You then are firmly determined to turn tutor? do so in God's name. But since I am not eloquent enough to divert you from your design, at least take one counsel along with you. Keep the strictest eye over your own conduct, whenever you live in a family where there are women. The devil delights very much in tempting tutors; and if the instrument he employs on those occasions be ever so little beautiful, they seldom escape the snare.

I ASSURED the parish-priest of Leganez, that I would follow his advice to a tittle.

The fair sex was indeed a dreadful rock with regard to me; being at that time but too sensible, that nature had given me such a complexion, as would necessarily put my virtue to the greatest trials.

## CHAP. II.

*Of the first Family where Don Cherubim was Tutor.*

THE parish-priest of Leganez finding I was fixed in the resolution to accept of a tutor's place, introduced me to the rev. father Thomas de Villereal, a friar of the order of Mercy, who made it his business to enquire out families where tutors were wanted. This venerable father soon pointed out one to me; or rather he himself took me to signior Isidor Montanos, a wealthy citizen of Madrid, who upon the very advantageous character the friar gave me, agreed to allow me fifty pistoles a year. Montanos had been a merchant, and had left off trade, in order to turn gentleman and live at his ease. He had two sons, the one being sixteen, and the other fifteen years of age. He presented them to me, but their air and mien did not prejudice me in favour of them. The eldest had a great impediment in his speech, and the youngest was



was crook-backed. I put a few questions to them, in order to sound their capacities; and judged by the answers they made, that it would be their own fault if they did not make a tolerable improvement under me.

My first care, at coming into this family, was to study every individual in it, from the Master to the lowest footboy; and I intended to behave myself in such a manner as not to display one fault, which was almost as difficult a thing as to be quite exempt from any. I soon found out their several characters, and was grieved at the discovery. Signior Isidor, who had a very shallow capacity, set up for a wit, and was for ever throwing out some silly pun, or stupid jest. Puffed up with his estate of ten thousand ducats a year, he would swell his cheeks, and strut about like a turkey-cock. To finish the picture, he was clownish, morose, fantastical and fiery. His sons had also their bad inclinations. Tho' time had not yet made them men, they were such by their passions; and nature had given them a dispensation as it were, with regard to age, in order for their being vicious. A favourite footman, (a kind of valet de chambre) was their privy counsellor; and bestowed the same services upon them, as if they had been grown to years of maturity. At least I fancied so; and imagined I had such convincing reasons for my sus-

picion, that I could not forbear acquainting their father with it. I naturally supposed, when I hinted this matter to signior Isidor, that he would be fully sensible of the service I thereby did him; and consequently take Fire, as any other father would have done. However, I was quite mistaken, for, instead of being angry, he only laughed in my face, and cried; well, well, Mr. Bachelor, let them go on; they will grow as weary of it by and by, as their father was before them. I myself was a mettlesome blade at their age; and used to put all the fathers and husbands in the neighbourhood into a terrible flutter. I would have my sons be exactly the men their father hath been. I do not give you fifty pistoles a Year to make saints of them. Instruct them in the Latin tongue and history, and give them such a behaviour as may fit them for the world; this Mr. Bachelor, is all I require from you.

WHEN I found that Montanos was entirely regardless, with respect to the morals of his sons, I no longer watched over their actions; but, keeping within the limits which were prescribed me, I taught them such things only as their father had ordered. Accordingly I made my pupils translate the Latin authors into Spanish, and turn the most celebrated of these into Latin. I used to read the wars of Granada, or some other histories

tories to them; and illustrated every lesson with useful reflections. Farther, whenever they happened to say, or do any thing that was repugnant to good manners, or the love we owe to our neighbour, I could not forbear reproving them for it. But all my Remonstrances were vain; their father quite eluding the effect of them, by his imprudent and destructive discourses. When he was in a good humour, he would boast before them of his having been a rake; so, that one would have concluded he told them his wild pranks, in no other view, but to prompt his sons to imitate them. Thus, some fathers, so far from restraining their tongues before their children, will not suffer them to tread the paths of virtue, but lead them into a course of vice.

AFTER all, had this been Signior Isidor's only fault, I probably might have lived several years under his roof; and would even have submitted to many others he had, his morose temper excepted. But no creature could be more insupportable than Isidor when he was in an ill humour, and he was but too often so. On these occasions he would vent the most shocking and injurious expressions; and was even so unjust, as to reproach me for the natural imperfections of his children. Why the plague, he would say, do not you teach my eldest son (that is the stutterer) to speak clearly and distinctly? What the devil  
makes



makes his younger brother (the crook-backed boy) stand so awry? What a pox is the meaning that one of them is so whey-faced! Oons! I would know the reason why his brother's clothes are so dusty and greasy?

IN this manner I was regaled every day; but what man of the least spirit could submit tamely to such reproaches! Accordingly one morning being exasperated in the highest degree, I ran out of Signior Montanos's house, firmly resolved never to set my foot again within his doors; after telling him, that I was no ways satisfied with a man, who required his children's tutor to be at the same time, their physician, their dancing-master, and valet de chambre.

### CHAP. III.

*Don Cherubim offers his Service to a Counsellor of the Council of Castile. His Conversation with that Magistrate.*

I WENT that very day to my friend, the friar of the order of Mercy, who was not displeased at my leaving Signior Isidor; but on the contrary, assured me, that he was extremely sorry he had placed me in so worthless a family. Mr. Bachelor, says he, come to me  
again

again three days hence, and by that time, I may probably find a place that will suit you much better.

ACCORDINGLY he said, the next time I waited upon him, that he had procured me another. A counsellor or judge of the council of Castile, added the friar, wants a tutor for his only son. You may wait upon that magistrate in my name: I have spoken to him about you, and it is my opinion you will suit one another very well. I must only tell you, that he is a very haughty man, as indeed most of those counsellors are; but excepting this ill quality, he is of an amiable character, as I am informed. I wish you better success in this family, than you had in that of signior Montanos.

IMMEDIATELY I went to the counsellor's house; and met him just as he was stepping into his coach, in order to go to council. I went up to him with an air of the most profound respect, and told him I was the Bachelor whom father Thomas de Villareal had spoke to him about. You are come at a very unseasonable time, answered the counsellor, with an air of pride and severity: I cannot admit you to an audience now: return at six in the evening.

FINDING myself summoned to appear, I did not fail to visit the magistrate, even before the time appointed. Notice was given that I was come. I then waited two full hours at

at least, in the anti-chamber; after which I was shewn into a closet, where I found the counsellor lolling in an easy chair. I made him so very low a bow, that I had like to have fallen upon my nose. He returned the compliment with a nod; when pointing to a little stool, that looked very much like the crickets on which criminals are seated, he made a sign to me to take my place.

I NEVER in my life beheld a man with a more haughty aspect. He surveyed me with a critical eye; and presuming to interrogate me in a judicial way, spoke thus: Was you born a gentleman?—I did not know, says I to him, that a tutor was obliged to be well descended. It is not (replied Sir Gravity) absolutely necessary he should be so; but besides, that this is no improper qualification, methinks instruction has much greater force and energy when delivered by a tutor who was born a gentleman, than from one who sprung from the dregs of the people.

The respect I owed to a counsellor of Castile, kept me, though with the utmost difficulty, from bursting into a loud laugh at these last words, so ridiculous did they appear to me.—However, continued the magistrate, though you should not be nobly descended, I will for once pass over that article, provided you possess all the qualifications I require in the person that is to have the honour to educate my son, who very probably may one day succeed me in my high station.

I ASKED



I ASKED the counsellor, what qualifications he thought requisite in this tutor. He answered, I want a person who is at one and the same time a great man, a learned man, a religious man, and a well bred man. This person must be possessed of every talent, and be master of all sciences both divine and human; from the catechism to the most mysterious part of mystical divinity, and from Heraldry to Sir Isaac Newton's Principia. Such is the tutor I want; and as it would be but justice to bestow a suitable reward on a man of such distinguished merit, I will give him his board and twelve pistoles per annum. But this is not all; I probably may, when he hath completed my son's education, procure him some small benefice in the country; or settle a pension upon him (for life) of five or six pistoles a year.

I WAS astonished at the generosity of this magistrate; and being conscious to myself that I was not the pedagogue of whom he had formed so perfect an idea, I rose from my cricket and spoke as follows. I must take my leave of your lordship. May you find out the man you are in search of, but to speak my opinion freely, I fancy that such a one will be as hard to meet with, as the perfect orator of Cicero.

## C H A P. IV.

*The Friar of the Order of Mercy, places the Bachelor in the Marquis de Buendia's Family.*

I REPEATED to Father Thomas all the conversation above mentioned, when both of us laughed at the behaviour and expressions of the counsellor, whom we concluded to be an original in his kind. I shall not be easy, says the friar, till I have settled you in a good family: the longer I know you, the more I love you, and therefore will again employ my utmost endeavours to serve you. I shall have very bad luck indeed, if I do not at last fix you in one of those families, where tutors reap a noble harvest.

AND indeed a few days after, imagining he had now made my fortune, he flew to my lodgings, and told me with a warmth that heightened my obligation to him; at last, dear Bachelor, I have got a most excellent place for you. The Marquis de Buendia, one of the chief men at court, is determined, on the very advantageous character I gave him of you, to entrust you with the education of his son. Come to me to-morrow morning, and I will

will take you to his lordship. You will there see one of the politest noblemen in the kingdom, and be highly delighted with the reception you will meet with. I make no doubt but that you will live very comfortably in his family.

THE next day Father Thomas introduced me to the marquis's levee. This nobleman received me with the most gracious air, and said; that he was firmly persuaded I must be a person of uncommon merit, since the reverend father, who was his friend, had made choice of me to be tutor to his son. I take you, continued he, at once, from the hands of his reverence, without any farther recommendation. With regard to your salary, I will give you an hundred pistoles per annum; and before you leave my family, I will reward you in proportion to the care you take, and in a manner suitable to my quality.

I HAD my trunk carried that very day to the marquis's house, where an apartment was prepared for me. I presently saw my pupil, who was perfectly beautiful, sweet tempered, and but seven years old. He was then under the tuition of the women; but now young master was put into my hands, and a valet de chambre and footman were ordered to wait upon us only. As children are generally born with some inclinations, which are not altogether so happy as one could wish, I endeavoured to study his. I did not observe he had any bad ones; the women, who had presided over his



infant years, having carefully suppressed every thing that had the least tendency to vice. They had even taught him to read and write; so that he could scrawl a tolerable hand before he was taken from under their direction.

I PUT the accidence into his hands, and began to teach him the rudiments of the Latin tongue. I taught him at intervals, such little fables as enlighten the mind, at the same time, that they divert it. He learned them by heart with wonderful ease; and would repeat them to his papa in so delightful a manner, that the marquis always wept for joy on those occasions. It is certain, that my pupil was a most promising child. I was overjoyed at his happy disposition, and proud of the future honour I should receive from his education.

I NOW was so well pleased with my condition, that I could not forbear waiting upon my worthy friend the friar, to inform him of my felicity. Reverend father, says I to him, with an air of satisfaction, which made him immediately guess the motive of my visit; I am come to return you a thousand thanks for the service you have done me. You have settled me in a family, where I am respected, beloved and caressed. My pupil is the most tractable child in the universe, and I cannot spy one fault in him. — No, he is not a child, he is a little angel.

FATHER Thomas, upon saying these words, embraced me with the highest joy, and

and said; how delighted am I to hear you are so well pleased with your pupil!—I am as well satisfied, says I in no less transport, with his excellent father. The Marquis de Buendia, is a most amiable man of quality. His politeness is beyond all expression; and his civility to me so great, that I am quite confounded. So far from being uneven in his temper, and capricious at intervals, like other men of quality to shew his superiority; whenever he speaks to me, it is always that he may have an opportunity of saying some obliging thing or other. He even ordered all his servants, when I myself was present, to obey my orders.

ONCE again, says the friar, I am overjoyed at the news, and you will now certainly make your fortune. Thus I was enchanted with my tutorship; and only wished that the parish-priest of Leganez, who by this time had left Madrid, could be informed of my happy situation. In his opinion, says I, there is not a single tutor in the world, but leads a miserable life; and nevertheless, I myself am in a station, that may justly excite envy.

I SPENT a whole year in this happy manner; and though I had not received one farthing of my salary, nevertheless I was not the least uneasy. When my little stock of money, says I, is quite exhausted, Don Gabriel Pampano, our steward, will furnish me. I

need but whisper a word to him, and he doubtless will immediately let me have as many pistoles as I can desire.

TRUSTING to this, I let six months more pass away without being the least impatient; but at last the great want I was in of some pistoles, in order to buy me new clothes, forced me to address Pampano. Don Gabriel, says I, I must beg the favour of you to let me have thirty pistoles upon account. My dear Mr. Bachelor, replied he (putting on a mournful countenance) you have chose a time when I am quite bare of money, and I am heartily sorry for it. Be assured that was I in cash, an hundred pistoles instead of thirty should be at your service; but I vow and protest upon my honour, that I have not so much as ten crowns of his lordship's in my hands.——Mere steward's cant, says I: you would not refuse my request, was you really desirous of obliging me. Above an hundred and fifty pistoles are owing me, and I want money very much: put yourself, I beseech you, in my place. It was to no purpose that I spoke; in vain I urged Pampano to assist me, at least with a dozen pistoles, for the wretch was inexorable. A steward's heart must surely be made of stone.

BUT now my clothes began to grow threadbare, so that I was almost at my wit's end. One day I drew our dancing-master aside,



aside, and asked him whether he was regularly paid for the lessons he taught. Not over well, says he; I cannot yet tell the colour of the marquis's money, though I have come constantly to his house, three times a week for these six months. In all probability, says he, this is your case. You have hit it, replied I; but unhappily for me, I have not so many strings to my bow. You have twenty scholars: Now if ten of these do not pay you, you receive so much money from the other ten, as enables you to support yourself in a decent manner. Hence it is plain, that I stand a much worse chance than you do.

AFTER having again attempted several times, but to no purpose, to soften the cruel Pampano, I resolved to inform the marquis himself of my wants. However, it cost me some struggles before I could fix myself in that resolution; but at last necessity forced me to it. Accordingly, I told his lordship the great need I had of money; and the many times I had spoke to Don Gabriel, though I asked but for a trifling sum in comparison of what was due to me. The marquis was (or to speak more justly) seemed very angry at his steward; declared that he would give the knave a hearty rebuke, and oblige him to pay me regularly every quarter.

COULD any one have imagined after this, but that fifty pistoles, at least, would have been paid me immediately? But I was as far from them as ever; whether it were that the purses both of Pampano and his lordship were near drained; or that they had concerted together, (which indeed seems more probable) to use me as they did the rest of the marquis's creditors.

I NOW was reduced to so low an ebb, that it would have been impossible for me to continue any longer in this place; wherefore addressing Father Thomas a fourth time, he pitied my case, and got me into a contador's family. But before I left the marquis, I wrote a letter to him, in which I told him in the most respectful terms; that my circumstances not enabling me to serve his lordship any longer for nothing, I therefore was under a necessity of seeking another family, and humbly begged him not to take it amiss. For let a man in a low station be ever so much injured by a person of quality, he is obliged to put up the affront, and sneak away as if he himself was the aggressor.

## C H A P. V.

*The Bachelor is Tutor to a Contador or Banker's Son.*

I NOW passed from one extreme to another. The contador indeed was not so ceremonious and polite as the Marquis de Buendia; but then his coffers were much fuller of money. What a charming house was I now got into! Gold and silver were counting out there all day long; and this harmonious sound enchanted my ears.

THE contador was a man who went to the business at once. He enquired what salary the marquis had allowed me. His lordship, says I to him, promised to give me an hundred pistoles per annum, but I cannot say he was over punctual in his payments. The contador smiled at these words, and cried; Well, I promise to give you a hundred and fifty pistoles a year, and will even advance that sum to you this instant. Immediately he called his cashier: Raposo, says he, give Mr. Bachelor a hundred pistoles; and let him have money whenever he desires any.

THESE words raised a mist before my eyes. Egad, says I to myself, a marquis and a contador differ as much as light and darkness. The one will not pay what he owes, and the other pays before he has contracted a debt. The cashier had no sooner counted down the money,



money, but I sent for a taylor, and ordered him to make me a very handsome suit of clothes. Immediately I threw him twenty pistoles, to intimate the contador's generosity.

BEING on a sudden, thus flush of money, my gaiety and sprightliness, of which the marquis and his steward had bereaved me, returned; and I began to discharge the duties of my function with the utmost chearfulness. My new disciple had made no great progress in his learning; for though he was twelve years of age, he did not know a letter, and I was his first master. Mr. Bachelor, says his father to me, I resign my son to you, and consequently rely entirely upon you for his education. I do not intend to make a divine of him, and therefore, would have you to give him only a tincture of the Latin tongue. Teach him at the same time, what is called a genteel behaviour, and look out for an able arithmetician; for I would have the boy a complete accountant. Let this be your care.

IMMEDIATELY I prepared for the discharge of my duty; being firmly determined to lick (if possible) the cub into some shape. It cost me many a painful hour before I could give him a tolerable notion of the alphabet; he having as little genius for learning, as the parish-priest of Leganez's pupil. However, I exerted myself so well, and was so successful  
in

in my endeavours, that at last my pupil was able to read any Spanish author fluently. Immediately I communicated this wonderful piece of news to his mamma, who was in raptures at what I told her. Though she had the utmost fondness for her son, yet she was not blind to his faults; and looking upon the success of my instructions as a miracle, she ascribed all the honour of it to me, whereby I ingratiated myself into her favour.

CORNELIA, which was the name of the contador's lady, began to be pleased with my conversation; and at last grew so delighted with it, that she would send for me every day into her apartment, upon pretence of examining her son, whom I always took with me on that occasion. This gentlewoman was above five and thirty; was extremely witty, but so very reserved, that perhaps I was mistaken in fancying, that she had a sneaking kindness for me. Yet I could not forbear imagining this, and the reader may judge from what follows, whether I was a coxcomb for thinking so.

THOUGH Cornelia was so fine a woman, and beheld me with such an eye, as might justly make me suspect she had a design upon me, yet I did not make the least returns for the many testimonies she gave me of her favour. I was smit with Nisa her chamber-maid, who being no less struck with

with me, her allurements were much more powerful than those of Cornelia, her mistress. Notwithstanding the virtuous principles I had imbibed at the university; yet Nisa was so smart, and engaging a coquet, that I found her charms irresistible. We employed the silent rhetoric of the eyes so effectually, and our glances were so very expressive, that we soon understood one another's meaning, and immediately formed an intrigue.

NISA, besides several other talents she possessed, was particularly happy in finding out methods to carry on a secret correspondence with her lovers; and this art was of great service to her in a family, where she had just reasons to dread the resentment of a gallant, whom she wanted to quit for my sake; at least to make me share the amour with him. The gallant who was to be thus sacrificed, was my pupil's valet de chambre. It is probable that Nisa's vanity, not being sufficiently indulged by the addresses of a valet, she was resolved to attempt the conquest of a tutor.

Be this as it will, triumphing over my rival, without knowing that I had one, I enjoyed a happiness to which he was not long a stranger. My stolen interviews with his adored princess, soon took vent; when breathing nothing but revenge, he resolved to ruin us both. He did not divulge the affair immediately, his strongest weapons being mere



mere suspicion, which consequently was no proof; and therefore he managed matters with much more caution and prudence. He won over all the footmen in the family to his interest; and those vermin, who generally bear a great enmity to tutors, were soon prevailed upon to second his vengeance. Thus as Nisa and I had so many spies, it was impossible for us to escape being caught together.

THIS adventure made a great noise at the contador's, so that all the servants made themselves merry at my expence. Our master, contrary to the custom of those of his profession, who generally are not displeased at having such scenes pass in their families, thought himself greatly injured in his honour, and flew into a dreadful passion. Madam, who resented what had passed more than her husband, declared it to be an unpardonable crime. Strange! cried she; that a creature, whom I imagined to be a man of honour and taste, should descend so low as to make love to a servant wench! To conclude, poor Don Cherubim was made the victim on this occasion. Cornelia, who had an affection for her chamber-maid, or perhaps had entrusted her with some important secrets, only rated her a little; but as for myself, I was ignominiously dismissed the family, as a seducer of young girls, because

because I had not placed my affections on a nobler object.

## CHAP. VI.

*Of the Adventures which befel the Bachelor after his going from the Contador's.*

THE reader will naturally suppose, that at my leaving the contador's, I did not wait upon father Thomas the friar, as he doubtless would have rebuked me severely for my ill conduct; and, who now considering me as a fellow that was wholly unworthy of his notice, would have scrupled to recommend me to any other family. I was even afraid of returning to the house where I had formerly boarded, upon the supposition that my adventure had certainly reached there: for when a person has been guilty of a folly, he presently imagines that it is known to the whole world. I therefore withdrew to a remote part of the town, and hired a room; and as I was not without money, I spent a whole fortnight (at my lodging) in considering what course it would be best for me to take.

I REFLECTED more than once on the good advice, which the parish-priest of Leganez had given me. I was heartily sorry that I had not followed it; and reproaching myself for my folly,

folly, I could not so much as think of Nisa without blushing. Stupid creature! (would I say to myself;) didst thou turn tutor in no other view but to make love to chamber-maids? Instead of carrying shame from house to house, quit at once a profession which is discharged so ill by thee; or, if thou art still determined to continue it, reform thy conduct; and seriously endeavour to acquire those virtues which are necessary for a faithful discharge of it. In a word, I repented of my error; and promised myself so very often to be wiser for the future, that at last I fancied I should really be so.

By this time my new landlord, having conceived a friendship for me, resolved to do me all the service in his power. Mr. Bachelor, says he to me, I have a mind to place you in a very good family; I mean at a widow lady's of quality, who designs to take a tutor into the house to instruct her grandson. I trembled at the name of widow. Shall I not, says I to myself, be again exposed to some new temptation? And is not the devil going to lay a fresh trap for me? However, I suppressed my fears by calling to mind that the lady in question was a grandmother, which intimated an age that might serve as a curb to my amorous sallies. The answer I made my landlord was, that I should take it as a great favour, if he would recommend me into the widow's family.



I GIVE you, says he, my word I will, and am sure of succeeding. I was servant to that lady; am so happy, as to have her ear, and will desire her this very day, to take you for her grandson's tutor. My landlord was punctual to his promise; and drew me in such advantageous colours, that the lady desired to see me. Accordingly, I waited upon her; and being approved-of, I was taken into the family that instant.

THIS widow's name was Donna Louisa de Padilla. Her late husband, a general officer, had been killed in Flanders, in a battle fought against the French. I thought her charming for a grandmother; but yet did not imagine, that her beauties would be a rock, on which, my virtue might perhaps split. She kept near her person, either out of policy, or from some other motive, two decrepit waiting women, who used to diffuse an air of youth over her face. One of these women, whose name was Madam Rodriguez, was her mistress's confidant, and acquired a great ascendant over her. I rejoiced in myself, and thanked my stars, for that Donna Louisa, instead of those venerable monuments of antiquity (her two waiting women) had not two sprightly chamber maids, who perhaps might have exposed my virtue to fresh struggles.

I now took my post, and things went on extremely smooth at first. I laboured at the improvement of my new pupil, who being  
a very

a very tractable child, and blessed with a happy disposition, came on surprisngly, in his accidence. He was not quite eight years old. In less than six months he made such a progress, as far surpassed my expectation; and which procured me a noble present, his grandmother giving me a gold watch. A little after, she sent me a large bundle of very fine linen for shirts, with a piece of cloth, made of the finest Segovia wool, to make me a suit of clothes. But these several gifts, which I looked upon, as the mere effects of generosity, were owing to another cause, as the reader will presently find.

A SERVANT came to me one morning, as I was teaching my pupil, and told me, that her lady wanted to speak to me. I flew immediately to her apartment, where I found her at her toilet, with her two venerable fire-women, who were employing all the powers of their art, to patch up, as it were her charms.

Her clothes hung so loose about her, that it might have raised the warmest wishes, had she not revealed at the same time, what was more than sufficient, to secure a man from temptation.

THE waiting-women having done every thing their lady wanted, she nodded to them to go; and keeping me with her, sit down, says she, (with a mysterious air) and hear what I have to say. I am meditating a thing in your favour, which I  
am

am very glad to acquaint you with; I do not look upon you as one, who is qualified merely for the education of children, but am sure, you can act in many other capacities; and therefore, am resolved, to give you the management of my whole estate. Francisco Forteza, my steward, begins to grow old, for which reason, I intend to dismiss him, and settle a pension upon him for life. You shall succeed to his employment, which I am persuaded, you will discharge, much better than he is able to do, and shall educate my grandson at the same time. You may exercise them together very easily.

I ENDEAVOURED to remonstrate to her ladyship, that having never been a steward, I was afraid I should not be able to acquit myself in the manner I ought. Pugh, pugh, says she; it is the easiest thing in the world. I am not engaged in one law-suit, nor owe a farthing to any man. All your business will be to receive my rents, and pay the several expences of my house-keeping. Come every morning into my apartment, and then we will calculate matters together for an hour or two; and depend upon it I will soon teach you your new employment. I assured her ladyship, that I was ready to obey all her commands, and therefore withdrew; but not without observing that her eyes sparkled, and her cheeks were on fire.



By this time I had too much experience, or rather entertained too good an opinion of myself, not to apply these symptoms to my advantage. I suspected that the old lady harboured a secret passion for me, and my suspicions were soon changed to certainty. Madam Rodriguez came one morning into my room, when saluting me with a smile: God preserve you, says she, good Mr. Bachelor; what will you give me for the good news I bring?—What good news, says I, have you to tell me? That you are, replied the old woman, the most fortunate of all tutors, past, present and to come. You have lighted up a flame in the heart of my lady, who has given me leave to disclose the important secret to you.

SURELY, continued she (perceiving that I was very little affected with the felicity that awaited me) you receive this delightful news with an air of the utmost indifference. What a number of gentlemen would gladly be in your place! Though my lady be not in her bloom, she is not (heavens be praised) come to that mournful season of life, in which it becomes our sex to relinquish all correspondence with yours.

THERE, replied I, Madam Rodriguez, I agree with you; and indeed, I must have lost my senses, to think otherwise. Yes, Donna Louisa has a thousand charms. Her ladyship is but just beginning to verge into her

autumn. But yet I will own to you, that notwithstanding the honour I receive from her generous passion, it would be impossible for me to make a proper advantage of it. An intrigue will not suit one of my character. Though I have not yet taken holy orders (added I, with an air of hypocrisy) yet as I wear a clerical habit, I ought to behave myself in such a manner, as not to bring the least scandal upon it.

LAUD, what is that you say? interrupted the old woman with great emotion: What a horrid construction do you put on my lady's conduct! Would it be possible for her, who is terrified at the very shadow of guilt, to harbour the least thoughts of carrying on an intrigue with a man? Do justice to Donna Louisa. If her passion for you is so great, that it will be impossible for her to suppress it; do not fancy, that she is desirous of gratifying it, at the expence of her virtue.—To tell you the whole secret, my lady is determined to marry you.

I WAS a little struck at these last words. Wise and discreet Rodriguez, says I to the old waiting-woman; should our lady really intend to marry me, would not her relations traverse her design? Donna Louisa, replied the old woman, is her own mistress. Besides, you are descended (if I mistake not) of a noble family; not to mention that she

is resolved to marry you so very privately, that not a soul shall know any thing of the matter. Finding that my widow was silly enough to go these lengths, I thought it would be ridiculous in me to let slip so fine an opportunity. I therefore desired Rodriguez to present my very humble respects to her lady, and to assure her that I would pay all obedience to her will.

I STAYED till the waiting woman had time enough to inform Donna Louisa of the result of our conference, and afterwards went in person to confirm her report. Madam, says I to my tender widow, [throwing myself at her feet,] is it possible you should discover a regard for one who is so unworthy of possessing you! I cannot believe it without trembling at the same time. Do not you blame me, replied the lady, for the steps I have taken: since I am desirous of concealing from myself all such things as may be irregular or improper in this affair, why should you endeavour to undeceive me? Make your advantage of my foible instead of censuring it. Rodriguez hath told you nothing but the truth. I am charmed with your person, and am therefore determined to marry you privately, in case my fond wishes meet with a proper return.

EXCELLENT lady! says I, kissing one of her withered hands with an air of transport; would it be possible for a man who has the  
least



least spark of honour or gratitude, to be not duly affected with so generous an offer: Madam, be assured that I shall make it the study of my whole life, to merit, so far as I am able, this great and undeserved favour.

I SPOKE these last words, with a most engaging air, and tone of voice, and seemed to be fired with the strongest passion. However, if there was some art in these demonstrations I gave of it, I can justly affirm that nature had a share in them. I was so struck with the generosity of Donna Louisa, that my eyes began already to be blinded with respect to her decayed beauties.

---

## CHAP. VII.

*In what Manner Don Cherubim, just as he was going to become Donna Louisa's Husband, found his Hopes frustrated on a sudden.*

**D**ONNA Louisa, overjoyed at the frame of mind I was in, gave orders for the solemnizing of our marriage privately. But the very eve of the Wedding-day, an accident

cident happened, which quite defeated our intentions.

JUST as I was going to step into my lady's house, four bravos, who wore the most dreadful mostachios that were ever seen in Spain, rushed upon me on a sudden, and threw me into a coach, in which were two more of their gang. These villains driving to a remote part of the city, set me down at the door of a mean house; and led me into a kind of hall, that had very much the look of an arsenal, it being filled with halberds, daggers, cutlasses, blunderbusses and pistols. At any other time, I should have taken a pleasure in surveying so singular a place; but then I was too intent upon the danger I was in from these ruffians, whose furious aspect quite chilled my blood.

ONE of these hectors, observing the panic, with which I was seized, fell a laughing; and to revive my spirits, spoke as follows. Cheer up, Mr. Bachelor, you are now with a set of very honest gentlemen, whose business it is, to maintain order and decorum in society, and to secure the peace of families. It is we, that are the ministers of justice. The judges, who are appointed by the government, content themselves with adhering scrupulously to the letter of the law; whereas we sometimes make up what is deficient in it. The laws,

laws, for instance, do not forbid a widow of quality to marry beneath herself: Nevertheless this is a scandalous practice, and for that reason, we do not suffer it. The motive therefore of our seizing you, was, to prevent the grief you certainly would have brought upon Donna Louisa's family, in case she had married you; and this we have done at the request of one of her nephews, who promised us a thousand crowns for carrying you off.

You are to take your choice, continued the ruffian: In case you refuse to leave Madrid, and consequently the widow, we have orders to murder you; but on the contrary, we have the permission to let you escape with your life, and even without a drubbing, provided you freely give up all pretensions to the lady.

It is at your own option.——What do ye mean by option says I with great emotion? Do ye imagine me fool enough not to leave instantly, were it in my power, Madrid and all the ladies in the universe? I could only wish to be a thousand miles from this place.

THAT I believe, replied the ruffian, with a malicious grin, and there we are both agreed. But you shall sup here, and spend the night with us in carousing; and to-morrow by day-break, two of my comrades will conduct you as far as Leganez, whence  
you



you may go to Toledo, where I would advise you to settle. It is a fine city, and inhabited by a great many noble families. You will there meet with a great choice of tutor's places.

HEARING this, I assured my gentlemen (so eager I was to get out of their clutches) that if they would but let me go and lie at an inn, I would leave Madrid before day-break, upon pain of falling a second time into their hands.

AT this proposal, the ruffians laughed till they were ready to split, when one of them addressed me in the following words: Mr. Bachelor, you seem a little uneasy at your company: but take heart: a philosopher should suit himself to all times and places. Come, you shall sup merrily with us. You will fare much better here, than at your inn; and among the different ladies who will spend the night with us, there perhaps may be one who may make the entertainment agreeable to you. Thus I was obliged to make a virtue of necessity, since there was no possibility of my getting away. Therefore I assumed a mock air of resolution, and even forced a laugh in conjunction with my bravos; whose gaiety perhaps inspired me with good humour, or at least, contributed in a great measure, to dispel my fears.

SUPPER

SUPPER being ready, we went into another spacious room, where I saw a buffet loaded with bottles and glasses, and a large table covered with dishes filled with dainties of every kind. We then seated ourselves together with three ladies that came in, and who they told me were the wives of some of those gentlemen; all which, I pretended to believe, tho' these women had an air of so much freedom and familiarity, that I could not but think them cortezans. Their dress was so very loose, that it did not even conceal some things which cannot be displayed without the greatest immodesty. However, they were all very pretty: and one of them was named la Gitanilla, doubtless because her father and mother were gipses. I never in my life beheld a more enchanting creature. Such a lustre darted from her eyes, as quite dazzled the beholder, and her wit was as sparkling as they. Her tongue indeed, sometimes ran too fast; but her facetious strokes and smart repartees, would have more than compensated for this defect, had they been less seasoned with smut. However, I listened to her with rapture; and was sensible that a chamber-maid of so delightful a cast, in a family where I had lived, would have been a dreadful stumbling-block to me.

I now began to be pleased with my company. Warmed by the oglings of la Gitanilla, and by the wine I was obliged to pour down,

down, to pledge the healths which were toasting round me perpetually, I insensibly forgot, with what sort of people I was feasting. We sat at table till day-break, when, after taking my leave of the bravos and their jilts, I left the city, with two of the former, and travelled towards Toledo.

---

C H A P. VIII.

*Of the Arrival of Don Cherubim at Toledo, and of the first Family in which he was a Tutor.*

**B**EING come to Leganez, one of my comrades spoke thus: Mr. Bachelor, we have executed our commission, in waiting upon you thus far; and it will now be your duty to keep your word with us. Be sure never to appear in Madrid more; for, as you have been already told, should you ever set your foot in it again, you are a dead man. Gentlemen, says I, with a very low bow, you may safely assure all Donna Louisa's nephews and grand-children, that you have banished me eternally from her. Upon this, my alguasils wished me a good journey, and we parted in the most complaisant and polite manner.

D

OUR



OUR separation freed me from a great terror, being dreadfully afraid that the ruffians would not dismiss me, until they had emptied my pockets. Accordingly, as soon as I had lost sight of them, I drew forth my watch; when kissing it, as a mother does her darling son, who has escaped a shipwreck: my dear, dear, watch, says I, addressing myself to it, you have been in prodigious danger! I could have sworn, that we should never have jogged on together to Toledo, and that you was going to return to Madrid.

INDEED I had very just reason to wonder, that I escaped un plundered, because these bravos are generally as great villains as ever went to the gallows. Besides my watch, I had a large purse full of pistoles, which, as steward to Donna Louisa, I had received the night before from one of her tenants; so that these ruffians would have gained more by rifling me, than they did for driving me out of Madrid.

BEING got to Leganez, I resolved not to leave it without visiting my quondam friend the parish-priest. I figured to myself the great pleasure I should have in telling him my last adventure, and in residing a few days at his house; for I did not doubt but he would insist upon my stay. However, I was deceived in my expectations; for I did not meet with my parish-priest, who, being one of those that are as little fond of residence, as bishops, was absent from his cure. I was told he was gone

gone to Cuenza, and that it was very uncertain when he would return.

I TRAVELLED as far as Mosoles, where I had the good fortune to meet with a mule-teen of Toledo, who was leading back a mule that had been hired. I agreed with him to ride it, and so continued my journey. Being come near Illescas, we were joined by an ecclesiastic, who was very well mounted; and had made all the speed possible, in order to travel in our company. We saluted one another in the most complaisant manner, and began to chat together. Being extremely desirous of knowing who he was, I took the liberty to ask him. I am replied he, one of the sixty canons of the cathedral, that commonly goes by the name of the holy see of Toledo.

THESE words were no sooner uttered, but I was seized with the greatest awe; having heard several times, that a canonry in this cathedral, is as good as two Italian bishopricks.

FINDING that I was got with so great a dignitary of the church, I fell several notes lower, and began to speak very cautiously. I cannot say whether he observed it; but be this as it will, he did not seem more vain or haughty upon that account. This canon now asked me who I was? I answered, a Bachelor of Salamanca, and am returning from court; where I have educated a young nobleman; and am now going to Toledo, to enquire for a tutor's place. You willeasly meet with one,

replied the canon, for your air and conversation prove you to be a man of capacity.

WE did not discontinue conversing throughout the whole journey ; and when we were arrived in Toledo, and going to part, he put out his hand to me and said ; Mr. Bachelor, I do not bid you farewell. You may enquire for Don Prospero the licentiate. I shall be glad to see you, and will do you all the service in my power. I will even endeavour tomorrow, to settle you in some good family. I gave the canon a multitude of thanks for his kind offer ; and went and took up my quarters at an inn, to which the muleteer recommended me.

FOUR days after, having bought a fresh stock of shirts, and a good suit of clothes, I waited upon the canon, who spoke to me thus : Friend, I have done your business ; Don Jerom de Polano, a knight of Calatrava, and my very intimate friend, is now enquiring for a man of abilities, to complete the education of Don Lewis, his only son. This place is at my disposal ; will you therefore accept of it ? That I will, replied I, with the utmost pleasure ; upon which, he carried me immediately to Don Jerom de Polano's.

THE instant that the knight saw Don Prospero, he flew to him with open arms, and clasped him with so much eagerness, that I supposed them very good friends. The canon, after hugging Don Jerom, and being  
hugged



hugged five or six times, presented me to him, and said : Hearing that Don Lewis your son is in want of a tutor, I have brought one whom you may take upon my word. He is a learned Bachelor of Salamanca, and is just come from Madrid, where he was intrusted with the education of a young nobleman.

DON Jerom, all the time the licentiate was talking in this manner, gazed upon me attentively ; and, without vanity be it spoke, I seemed to pass muster very well : And this I had reason to suppose, from the thanks which the knight gave Don Prospero, for introducing a gentleman, who, he said, brought his own recommendation along with him. He then conducted me to his lady's apartment, where she was with her son, who had the air of a very stubborn youth ; and with a chamber-maid, who did not raise the least alarm in my breast, although she was not above nineteen. Every one of these surveyed me from top to toe ; and I will be so bold as to say, that my mien and countenance prejudiced them not a little in my favour.

ACCORDINGLY I was taken into the family, where, as I had been recommended by Don Prospero the licentiate, I spent a fortnight, as agreeably as it was possible for a tutor to do. I was esteemed by Don Jerom and his lady, respected by the servants, and fancied that my pupil loved me ; but this was

because I did not know him. He had a valet de chambre, who having taken a liking to me, said one day : Mr. Bachelor, you are so very worthy a gentleman, that I cannot conceal from you a thing, which concerns you very much to know. That pupil of yours is good for nought : Don Lewis is a liar, and a very malicious creature. He bears a particular enmity to tutors, and therefore sets all his little wits to work, to get those concerned with him, turned away. His two last, were persons of distinguished merit, and yet he played his cards in such a manner, that they were both put out of the house. The father and mother, says I to the valet de chambre, idolize their son. They do indeed, says he, and have quite spoiled him; and therefore you will find it a very hard task to break his obstinate temper. I will take, says I, all the care possible of his education; and in case I should be unsuccessful, I will look out for a more worthy pupil.

THAT I might have nothing to reproach myself with, I began by discharging the duties of my employment with such an assiduity, as was not far unlike a state of slavery. I used my utmost endeavours to gain my little spark's love, and at the same time to make him stand in awe of me. Though he was above twelve years of age, and had three or four preceptors before me, yet he had made little or no progress even in the elements

elements of things. I was for ever speaking to him, and did all that lay in my power to engage his attention. I strove to the utmost to prevent his committing of a fault; and when he had been guilty of any, I either corrected him with great calmness, or pardoned him in such a manner, as was not derogatory to my character.

BUT notwithstanding all my art and industry, I experienced but too well the truth of what the valet de chambre had told me. Don Lewis now conceived an aversion to me; and his hatred increasing in proportion to the care I took of him, he resolved to get me turned out of the family. Accordingly, he made a thousand complaints; said that I was harsh and unjust; charged me with committing a thousand ridiculous actions, which I never once dreamt of; and declared, that he would not learn his book, if he was not freed from my tyranny. These menaces he always heightened with tears, which he could call forth at pleasure. In fine, he acted his part so well, that his parents struck with his fictitious grief, took his part, and turned me out of doors. In this manner, some fathers and mothers, unjudiciously prejudiced in favour of their worthless children, dismiss an able tutor, who had taken the utmost pains about their education.

To add to my misfortune, at my leaving this family; I went and waited upon Don Prospero



Prospero the licentiate, to inform him of what had passed between Don Jerom Polano and myself. I was going to tell him what a worthless little creature Don Lewis was, and to give him an account of the many artifices he had employed, to get me turned out of the family ; but the canon, whom Don Jerom in all probability had set against me, instead of pitying me for the ill usage I had met with, looked very coldly upon me ; and turned his back, after declaring, with an air of the utmost indifference, that, from that time forward, he would never undertake to recommend a tutor, without being perfectly acquainted with him.

---

## C H A P. IX.

*Of the Conversation which Don Cherubim had with a Biscayan Tutor, his Friend ; and of what happened thereupon.*

I HAD got acquainted with a Biscayan licentiate, who was a tutor as well as myself, and at that time out of place. His name was Carambola. He was not disagreeable in person ; but then he was so very diminutive, that he might pass for a dwarf : but what he wanted in stature, was more than

than compensated by the sprightliness of his wit, and the facetiousness of his temper. He had a very pleasant way of thinking and expressing himself; not to mention, that his Biscayan accent made his conversation still more humorous.

I WAS particularly delighted to hear him talk when he was in a passion, and this he never failed to be at the bare mention of fathers and mothers. Parents, he would say in an angry tone of voice, are commonly ungrateful. How unaccountably will a father talk: I am thoroughly well satisfied (will such a one say) with my son's tutor, and accordingly I intend to prefer him; but there's no haste for it; 'twill be time enough to think of that matter, after he shall have compleated my son's education. Is not this, added Carambola, just as if he should say; I will not yet promote a worthy man, who is actually doing me an essential piece of service, and has already merited the kindest returns from me; I will make his fortune, after I have dismissed him, and quite forget, that there is such a man in the world?

WITH such facetious strokes as these was I every now and then entertained by the little Biscayan, and I never failed to make a proper use of them. I met him one evening as he was taking the air, when coming up to me with a smile; friend, says I to him, what is it that pleases you so? One would conclude

conclude from the gaiety of your countenance, that you had got into some very generous family. You have partly guessed the thing, replied he; indeed I have found a place that suits me to a hair, but unluckily I am thought not to suit the place. I do not understand you says I, and therefore must desire you to speak more intelligibly.

You are to know then, continued he, that hearing accidentally, that a lady wanted a tutor for her son, who was but five years old; I waited upon her to offer my service, but had the ill fortune to be rejected, and for this single reason, because I am no taller. How, says I, interrupting the licentiate with a hearty laugh; will not this lady take a tutor into her family, unless he be six foot high? Indeed she will not, replied Carambola. The lady is resolved to have one of a graceful stature; and besides, he must be a very young man; for I was thought a great deal too old, though I am but three and thirty.

THESE words made me laugh still louder, and persuaded me that the lady in question must be a whimsical creature. I told the licentiate so, who replied with a serious tone of voice: you are quite mistaken, Don Cherubim, I can assure you that she is a woman of excellent sense; she is a prude, who is so artful as to enjoy the pleasures of love, without injuring her reputation; and for this reason, she wants a tutor for  
her



her son, who may be her gallant at the same time. What is her name, says I to the Biscayan? She assumes, replies he, the title of marchioness: but her husband is only a captain, and is now with the army in Lombardy: that is all I know of the matter. By the way, says he, I can assure you that she is a very pretty woman; and as far as I am able to judge, very witty. Have not you the curiosity to see her?——I cannot say but I have, replied I; and therefore will wait upon her to-morrow.——Do by all means, says he; you are certainly the very tutor she wants.

ACCORDINGLY I waited upon the captain's lady next morning, and sent up word, that a Bachelor of Salamanca desired the honour of being admitted to her presence. An old waiting-woman, who was not far unlike madam Rodriguez, introduced me into a closet, where her mistress was reading. The marchioness shut her book the moment I came in, and desired to know my business. Madam, says I, hearing that your ladyship wanted a tutor, for the young gentleman your son, I have taken the liberty to offer you my service. The lady, upon my saying these words, fixed her eyes stedfastly upon me; nor was I surveyed with less attention by her waiting-woman; and I found by their air and manner, that I was not displeasing to them; in a word, they  
looked

looked upon me as quite a different creature from Carambola.

MR. Bachelor, says the lady, how old may you be? Recollecting that she had found the licentiate much too old at three and thirty, I replied very confidently, that I was not two and twenty, though I was in reality four years older. So much the better, replied the marchioness; it is my fancy to have my son taught by a young man. But take care, continued she, not to tell an untruth. Are you regular in your way of living? For I would not take up in any manner with a rake, who should leave my house every morning, and go from place to place, merely to divert himself. I want a sedentary man, to educate my son under my own eye.

I HUMBLY presume, madam, says I, that I am the very person you want. Tho' I am now of an age, in which the passions are generally rebellious and head strong, nevertheless, reason, aided by the course of studies I have gone through, is so predominant in me, that I am not under any apprehensions from their wild transports. Besides, I have not the least acquaintance in Toledo; and was particularly careful not to converse in any manner with women. Confining therefore all my pleasures to the education of your son, I will employ my whole endeavours to the cultivating of so noble a young plant, in  
case

case you shall think proper to entrust me with the culture of it.

I SHALL be extremely well satisfied with you, replied the captain's lady, if your behaviour does but correspond with your expressions. Therefore I will take you to be my son's tutor; and as to your salary, do not be uneasy upon this article, for be assured, that it shall be proportionable to your care, your industry and abilities. She spoke these words with an air of so much modesty and reserve, that, spite of my vanity, I did not harbour the least suspicion of her virtue; nor consequently flatter myself with the hopes of ever making the least impression on her heart.

To relate matters with the fidelity which becomes a historian, I myself was struck with the charms of the marchioness, who was not five and thirty: in a word, she appeared a finished beauty to my eye. I felt, but without knowing why, a secret joy at my being taken into this house, and therefore flew that moment to fetch my things. In my way I met with my dapper licentiate, who was waiting for me out of curiosity, in the street. Well, friend, says he; what reception did you meet with from the marchioness? A most gracious one, replied I. The lady has taken me into her family.

CARAMBOLA fell a laughing at these words. I was firmly persuaded, says he, that your youth and stature could not fail of pro-

E

curing



curing you admittance there. What a luscious life will you lead with that lady! Not so fast good Mr. Licentiate, interrupted I, guessing his thought: I must beseech you not to judge so rashly of the marchioness, for I really believe her to be strictly chaste; at least I have not seen any thing that should make me suspect the contrary. Why should fancy the prudent and modest air with which she appears, to be mere hypocrisy? If we ought not to rely on a virtuous exterior, neither ought we to condemn it. Very true, says he; I possibly may be mistaken, but I could lay a good wager that I am not.

A few hours after, I returned with my things, to the marchioness's house, where I took possession of an apartment that was prepared for the child and myself. I desired to see him, and accordingly he was brought by the old waiting-woman above-mentioned, who was his governante. I thought him exceedingly pretty; he was not breeched yet, and could scarcely speak plain. What a pupil was this for a Bachelor of Salamanca! any pedagogue in my place, who had had ever so little pride, would have scorned to stoop so low as to teach the horn-book; but I considered this in another point of light; and, as Aristotle gloried in being the first preceptor of Alexander the Great, so I thought it glorious to be the first tutor to a young marquis.

I soon fell into discourse with the old governante,

vernante, whose name was Sephora. Mr. Bachelor, says she, I am overjoyed to find your person so very agreeable to my lady. So exquisite is her taste, that none but so charming a gentleman as yourself, could have pleased her. Twenty tutors came and offered themselves; but she would not take them into our family, though some of them were very handsome young men. You will not be sorry, continued she, that you came to live with us. The marchioness is vastly rich, and as generous as a princess. In a word, you will make your fortune, provided you do but behave yourself with extreme complaisance towards my lady, and applaud every thing she says and does. I will be so frank as to tell you that this is her blind side, and therefore make your advantage of it; above all, be sure to refrain from censuring, (if you possibly can) the strange passion she hath for books of Chivalry of all kinds. Can you, do you think, command yourself so far? Doubtless, says I; it will be no hard task for me, to sooth and indulge the marchioness in her chimeras, because I myself am very fond of those books. If this be so, replied the waiting-woman, take my word for it, you will quite charm her. *I TANT*

AND, indeed, the very first time the marchioness was pleased to converse with me, I found that her memory was stuffed with nothing but scraps of romances. She talked for

ever of the Seven Champions of Christendom, the Knight of the Sun, Amadis de Gaul, and Amadis of Greece, and such like trumpery, which formed her greatest pleasure, and composed her library. Tho' I did not entertain the advantageous idea she did, of those wild, incoherent pieces, nevertheless, I pretended to be a great admirer of them, and extolled them as the finest books in the world. Perhaps, I myself was the dupe on this occasion; and that she affected to have these silly compositions, in the greatest veneration, in no other view, but to gain her point. However this be, had she confined her folly barely to the reading of those impertinent books, I should always have been so complaisant as to applaud them in spite of good sense; but she carried her extravagance still farther.

MR. Bachelor, says she, as I was entering her apartment one day when she was reading *Don Bellianis of Greece*; I have been enchanted with a conversation I just now met with in this book. How sweetly do *Don Belianis* and *Floribilla* make love! how delicate are all their sentiments, and how melting their expressions! Laud, I am quite struck with them still.

THAT I believe, madam, says I; nothing in nature can be better adapted to raise the passions. I am exactly like your ladyship. The perusal of some conversations, in certain books of chivalry, transports me beyond



yond measure. They throw my soul into such a disorder, and raise it to such an ecstasy!—What is that you say, replied the marchioness with great emotion? Is it possible I should have met with a man as fond of dear romance as myself, and that you should be the very person? I am so much the more overjoyed, as I am just now in want of an humble servant, to be in quality of my knight errant. My charming Bachelor, you must be the man. Come, we will both metamorphose ourselves; you into a hero, and I into a heroine of romance. Accept of me for your mistress, and I will love you as my gentle knight. Let us entertain a fond passion for each other: Let us both burn with as bright a flame, as that which consumed the prince of Greece and his paramour.

SHE heightened these words with such warm demonstrations of her passion, that poor Don Cherubim, who was too violently smitten with the lady already, fell distractedly in love with her.—Instead of flying from this whimsical creature, I was so silly as to join in all her wild freaks. Behold the Bachelor of Salamanca, now transformed into a knight errant. Hence forward the marchioness and I always addressed one another in the romantic strain. I borrowed the expressions of the Knight of the Sun, and she those of the princess Lindabrides. Not a day passed, but we had one conversation at least, in the bombast style; but

it sometimes happened unluckily, that the heroine was a little too tender, and the hero too fond.

WHILST I thus passed my days at the marchioness's, like Rinaldo in the palace of Armida, a piece of news arrived that dissolved the enchantment. I was told that captain Torbellino, my princess's husband was expected soon from Lombardy; and at the same time, was assured that he was extremely jealous and fiery. To avoid all disputes; and having no great notion of duels, tho' I was a knight errant, I resolved very prudently to leave Toledo. This I had the more reason to do, as there was an old footman in the family, wholly devoted to his master; and who, by the particulars he might have told him, would very possibly have made me fall a victim to the husband's resentment, after having been a martyr to the wife's frolicks.

CHAP.

## CHAP. X.

*Our Bachelor is Preceptor to a Jeweller's  
Nephew in Cuenca.*

I LEFT Toledo privately one morning, with a muleteer who was going to Cuenca, one of the most famous cities in Spain. I had not been there many days, before the inn-keeper where I lodged, told me that he knew an old priest, who made it his business to recommend tutors into families, upon condition of receiving a certain gratuity, in proportion to the amount of their salary.

I ENQUIRED where this priest lived; and visiting him: I asked him whether he knew of any tutor's place that was vacant. He informed me that there were several; and upon my telling him that I was a Bachelor of Salamanca; he answered, you want no other recommendation, and need not tell me any thing farther. I myself will present you to Signior Diego Cintillo, the most famous jeweller in all Cuenca. He wants a man of virtue and abilities to teach a nephew of his, over whom he is guardian. I do not doubt but you will suit his purpose in every respect.

THE old priest carried me immediately to Signior Cintillo's, and gave a most noble character of me, tho' he had seen me but once before in his life; upon which the jeweller agreed



agreed to take me into his house, and give me fifty pistoles per annum, which I thought it prudence to accept, until such time as I should have an opportunity of providing better for myself. This jeweller was a great pretender to devotion. He had his beads for ever in his hand; spent a considerable part of the day at church; and reconciled perfectly well with his piety, the trade of a usurer, which he carried on so secretly in the city, that there was not one person there but knew it.

To ingratiate myself with this man, I studiously affected a specious appearance of sanctity, which suited wonderfully well with his hypocritical mien. He called for his nephew, who was a lad of seventeen or eighteen, when presenting him to me; this, says he, is the pupil I here put under your directions. He can read and write, and has even some smattering of the Latin classics. Instruct him in philosophy; and above all, employ your utmost endeavours to form his soul to virtue, for this ought to be our first care.

My new pupil's name was Chrysoptom. He was so very dull, that my first lessons were all thrown away upon him. I could not forbear acquainting his uncle, that his nephew did not seem to improve in any manner under me, and that I despaired of ever being able to make a philosopher of him. Do  
not

not be disheartened, Mr. Bachelor, says he ; I am sensible that Chrysoftom has not a very bright genius, and therefore I shall not be so unreasonable as to blame you, if he does not turn out a scholar.

BETWEEN you and I, continued he, I intend to make a friar of him. I fancy that nature formed him for a cloystered life. Here I interrupted the jeweller. For heaven's sake, good Signior Diego, says I, do not force your nephew's inclinations ; there are already so many poor creatures among the friars, that we need not encrease the number of them. What is that you say, cried Cintillo, with an air of astonishment ? God forbid I should ever harbour such a thought as to force Chrysoftom to assume a religious habit ! do not entertain such unjust notions of me ; I have no other view in it, but the boy's good. Imagining him not to be qualified for the world and business, I should be exceedingly pleased to see him embrace spontaneously a monastic life. I therefore intreat you to assist my endeavours in bending his mind that way ; and for your encouragement, I here promise to double your salary. Let us unite our care and industry ; and if possible, inspire him with a love for the cloyster, which I really think to be the fittest place for him. What a comfort and satisfaction would it be to me, to see my nephew lead a holy life in a monastery !

THE pious jeweller did not say all he thought. Besides the pleasure he figured to himself in having a new St. Chrysostom in his family, he would not have been sorry to see his nephew turn friar, because he then was to inherit his estate, which was very considerable. As I was to be rewarded for my trouble, therefore I complied with the desires of the uncle, and immediately began to talk to my pupil in the sermonizing strain; and began by exclaiming against the world and business, and expatiating on the rapturous pleasures of the monastic life. On the other side, Cintillo was eternally dining his ears with the same topics; so that the poor lad, being at last quite stunned with our preaching, was, in ten months, prevailed upon, to enter himself a novice in the great monastery of the Dominicans; where, persevering in his resolution, his pious uncle had the thrilling satisfaction, to see him take the habit, and by that means to inherit all his nephew's estate. And now Signior Diego, having no farther occasion for me, paid me all the arrears of my salary, which I had so painfully earned. I visited Chrysostom almost every day during his novitiate, to encourage and animate him in his holy resolution; so that Cintillo and I were highly satisfied with each other at parting.

Not long after I left Cuenca, upon a piece of news I heard, which I think proper to inform



inform the reader of. One day, as I was musing along the street, I felt some body give me a gentle tap on the shoulder. Turning about on a sudden, I saw a fellow, whom I remembered to be one of the ruffians, who had forced me away from Madrid to Leganez. I shuddered at the sight of this ill-omened bird, and said to him (trembling all the time) How! sir hector; am I still so ill fated as to have you again at my heels. Have I violated in any manner the oath I took to you? That you have not, replied the bravo with a smile; you are a man of the strictest honour. I have no further business with you; and will assure you that you may even return to Madrid, without the least danger, in case you have an inclination to go again to that city.

I UNDERSTAND you, says I; Donna Louisa in all probability is dead.—She is not replied the ruffian; and you may now go and renew your intimacy with her, if you have the least inclination that way, for none of us will be your hindrance. I will now inform you of the reason of this change. You must know that our society is dissolved, occasioned by a quarrel that broke out between two of our gentlemen, upon account of Gitanilla, the little black girl that supped with us, and whom you thought so exceeding pretty. They fought a duel about her, and had the ill fortune to run each other through the body. This incident occasioned a general

ral separation, and each of us withdrew whithersoever he thought proper.

THESE particulars filled me with inexpressible joy, and I soon set out for Madrid; being so much the more desirous of seeing that city again, as I had been forbid, upon pain of death, ever to return to it.

## CHAP. XI.

*Don Cherubim returns to Madrid, and there meets accidentally with a Man who gives him some account of Donna Louisa.*

I NO sooner set my foot in Madrid, but I happened to meet Martin Cinquillo, my old landlord, who had recommended me to Donna Louisa de Padillo. We presently knew each other. Mr. Bachelor, says he to me, with an air of astonishment, do I really see you returned safe and sound, after so very odd an adventure? To confess the truth, I imagined that the ruffians who carried you off had murdered you; and Donna Louisa herself has long given you over for dead. But how exquisite will be her satisfaction when she hears from me that you are still living!

Call

call upon me, added my landlord, to-morrow, and I will tell you how she received this news.

BEING very curious to know what impression my return would make on the lady, I did not fail to go to Cinquillo's the next day, where I found old madam Rodriguez waiting for me. The instant she saw me, she came forward in a rapture, when clasping me about the neck, and shedding tears of joy; welcome, thrice welcome, says she, Signior Don Cherubim! alas! both my lady and I (says she) concluded you lost for ever. We were persuaded that the whole family of the Padillas were so exasperated, that they had sacrificed you to their resentment. How much have we grieved for you! what floods of tears hath Donna Louisa shed! hence you may judge of the prodigious joy she felt when she heard of your return! this I am now come to inform you of in her name; and to assure you, that she is determined to do all that lies in her power to serve you.

HOWEVER, continued Rodriguez, my lady does not intend to marry you. Heavens be praised, she is now fully sensible, that it would be highly ridiculous in her to make Don Cherubim her husband, since thereby she would become the laughing-stock of the whole town. In a word, she has laid aside all thoughts of matrimony; but then she hath still so much friendship left for you, that she



is resolved to throw you into the way of fortune, by placing you in the family of the Duke d'Uzeda, her relation and the king's favourite. She believes she hath interest enough, to get you appointed one of that minister's secretaries. You must be fully sensible of the high importance of this post; and I do not doubt, but you will be extremely desirous of filling it, unless you intend to enter into the church. Far be it from me, answered I, to entertain any such design; I believe I am sufficiently virtuous and honest to make a good secretary, but am not enough so to be a good priest.

If this be the case, replied Rodriguez, strip off the habit you wear now, and put on that of a layman. I promise to do that immediately, said I; and, indeed, I began to grow sick of the tutor's profession, which, in my opinion, is beneath a man of letters, unless he is ready to starve. I therefore put on a very genteel lay-habit, and took my seat in one of the state-offices; my excellent widow having procured it for me, with only speaking a word to Donna Maria de Padilla her niece, dutchess of Uzeda.

I HAD no sooner taken possession of my employment, but I told madam Rodriguez, that I should be extremely glad to pay a visit to her lady, and return her thanks. To this the old woman answered, that her mistress would dispense with my civility on  
that

that occasion. After what has passed, added she, between you and her, she does not think it proper, ever to see you again, for fear you should again be exposed to some sinister accident. However, she will patronize, but not admit you to her presence, and this her relations cannot take amiss: in a word, you may rely on her prudence in all respects. Dear madam Rodriguez, says I, I hardly know what answer to make, and since I am denied the satisfaction of returning thanks in person to Donna Louisa; assure her, at least, in my name, that I entertain the deepest sense of the obligations I have to her. To say the truth, I was not displeased that my patroness refused to see me; for had I visited her as usual and made my addresses, I might have been fet upon by new ruffians; and perhaps should not have escaped so well from them, as I did out of the hands of the first.

As I wrote a pretty neat hand, (having learnt of a very good writing-master, in Salamanca) my business at the office was to copy all kinds of dispatches. I soon got acquainted with the clerks; and had the good fortune to ingratiate myself with Don Juan de Salzedo, the duke of Uzeda's first secretary. Don Juan was a person of good sense; but being passionately fond of the Latin tongue, he was perpetually citing some verse of Horace, Ovid or Petronius. He never saw me, but I was sure to be addressed with a scrap of Latin, and I to

please him, always answered in that tongue. By this I charmed him; which shews that, to please mankind, we need but encourage them in their foibles. Don Cherubim, says he one day to me, I really love you; and the first opportunity I meet with to evince you of this truth, I shall not fail to do it *lubenti animo*. An occasion soon presented itself for this purpose; but I must first tell my readers what it was that gave rise to it.

ONE evening that there was a ball at the dutchess of Uzeda's house in the great square where the bull-fights are exhibited, I had a mind to go thither. I found it filled with noblemen, and the most beautiful ladies of the court; insomuch that one would have concluded, the most charming women had been sought for throughout the kingdom, to form so bright an assembly.

BEFORE the ball opened, the gentlemen were doubtful which of the ladies best deserved their glances; but the instant Donna Isabella de Sandoval, only daughter to the duke of Uzeda, appeared, she attracted the eyes of the whole assembly. Her various graces, her noble and virtuous mien, her easy courtesy; the harmony of her head, body and arms, and her pretty ear, were universally admired. Accordingly, the instant she had done dancing, the ball-room echoed with the applauses that were bestowed upon her. She is inimitable



inimitable, cries a marquis ! Why have not we such a dancer on our stages ! I would take her for my mistress, were she to put me to ever so much expence !—I would intreat her to ruin me, cried a count.—I would beg, said a duke, the indulgence of her favourite smiles. In a word, all the noblemen were enchanted with this new Terpsichore, and I myself was no less ravished.

It will be naturally supposed, that so rich, so noble and beautiful an heiress had a crowd of worshippers. Among those who aspired to the honour of having her for a wife, no one had greater reason to flatter himself with the hopes of possessing her, than Don Juan Telles Giron, count of Urenna, only son to the duke d'Ossuna, and the most worthy to possess Isabella. This young nobleman exercised the employment of lord of the bed-chamber to his majesty, in the room of his father, who was at that time, viceroy of Naples.

WHILE the suitors of the duke d'Uzeda's daughter were endeavouring, by the assiduity and warmth of their addresses, to supplant one another, the last mentioned minister sent for the count, and spoke thus: Don Juan, you are not insensible of the great friendship there is between the duke your father and myself ; and how anxious I am for the prosperity of your family. Therefore I thought proper to have a moment's conference with you in private. I would advise

you to take time by the forelock, and to make the best advantage of it, while fortune smiles upon you. The duke d'Offuna has more enemies than ever. These set every engine at work to ruin him, and they at last may compass their vile ends: now it will be proper for you, before his credit suffers any diminution, to think of settling in the world. You are of an age to marry, and even to exercise very great employments. It is now a year continued he, that your father wrote to me, to desire me to look out a wife for you. I answered, there was one ready; but as he has not writ to me since on that subject, I know not whether he still continues in the same mind. Fail not, added he, to inform him by letter of the particulars I have told you; and to assure him, that if he is desirous of taking a daughter-in-law from me, I have thought of one, who is wealthy, handsome and noble enough, to merit such a father-in-law as himself.

THE count of Urenna, judging, by what he now heard, that Isabella was the daughter-in-law hinted at, discovered such a joy in his countenance, as was very pleasing to the duke of Uzeda. However, this minister seemed not to take notice of it, and said to Don Juan, send an express immediately to Naples, and your marriage shall be soon forwarded or laid aside, according to the answer I receive from the viceroy. The count,

to shew the duke d'Uzeda how impatient he was to become his son-in-law, left his excellency that moment; assuring him, that he would write forthwith to his father. He then flew to Don Juan de Salzedo's, for whom he entertained a very great esteem and affection, as being an old domestic in the family, and without whose advice he did not undertake any affair of importance. He then told him all that had passed between the minister above-mentioned, and himself, and spake as follows: I am in a strange puzzle whom to send to Naples. I want to dispatch thither a trusty person, of good sense, to inform my father of a thousand secret particulars, which I dare not commit to paper.

WHEN Salzedo heard these words, he immediately thought of me; and in the hopes of doing me a singular piece of service, proposed me as a man every way qualified for this affair, saying that he would be answerable for my conduct. The count resolving immediately to make use of my service on this occasion, desired to speak with me. Accordingly I had a private conference with him, in which he gave me the several instructions necessary. In fine, after receiving two packets from this nobleman; the one for the duke and the other for the dutchess d'Osuna, with a purse of two hundred pistoles, I prepared to go for Italy. But before I set out, I went and took my leave of Salzedo  
the



the secretary, who embracing me in the most affectionate manner;——Away, away, dear Don Cherubim, says he; I am overjoyed at your being employed upon this commission. Be assured, that you will get money enough by it; and *Lavina videbis littora*. Accordingly I left Madrid; and following close at the heels of a courier, whom the count had dispatched to Naples, I arrived there almost as soon as he.

## C H A P. XII.

*The Reception which Don Cherubim met with from the Viceroy, and their Conferences.*

**D**UKE d'Offuna had now been three years viceroy of the kingdom of Naples, after having governed Sicily four years. I went and alighted at the palace-royal where he resided; and sent word to his excellency, that a courier was come to wait upon him, from count d'Urenna, his son.

THE viceroy was then in his cabinet, and ordered me to be brought to him; when I immediately presented my packet of letters.

He

He opened it, and after reading the contents; these dispatches, says he, are the more agreeable to me, because they are brought by a secretary of duke d'Uzeda. But pray tell me (continued the viceroy) is this minister's daughter so excellent and beautiful a lady, as my son describes her? I have some suspicion of those pictures which lovers draw of their mistresses. My lord, replied I, in how lovely colours soever the count may have painted Isabella de Sandoval, yet the copy cannot but be inferior to the original. In a word, though the idea you may have formed to yourself of that lady should be ever so charming, yet your fancy cannot have reached her graces. Figure to yourself a young lady of fifteen, who, to the most exquisite beauty, adds a witty turn of mind and a solid judgment; and still this idea will exhibit only a part of the charms and fine qualities of Isabella. Though she is not serious and grave, as the Spanish ladies generally are; yet this defect (which is looked upon as such only in Spain) will be easily overlooked by your excellency. You say very true (interrupted the duke with a smile;) though I am a Spaniard, yet I shall ever prefer a person of a sprightly temper, to one of a grave cast.

IN this part of our conversation, the Dutchess de Ossuna having been informed that a courier was arrived, dispatched by Don Juan Telles, entered into the cabinet; being  
impatient

impatient to hear from her darling son. Madam, says the viceroy, a very advantageous match is offered Count d'Urenna. Duke d'Uzeda, will accept of him for his son-in-law, preferably to so many noblemen, who are smitten with the charms of Isabella, his only daughter. Immediately I presented the vice-queen with the packet I had brought for her excellency, the contents whereof were the same with that I delivered to her consort. After she had read them, they both began to deliberate; not whether they should consent to this marriage, but how it would be proper for them to act on this occasion. They now resolved to send me back to Madrid the very next day, to declare to the duke and dutchess of Uzeda, the earnest desire they had to have the house of Giron allied to that of Sandoval. They also resolved to write to the duke of Lerma and Donna Isabella.

THEY employed the whole day in writing their dispatches; and as Don Juan informed his father, that I could acquaint him with a great number of particulars which he wanted to inform him of, I had a longer conference with his excellency that evening, than the foregoing. Give me (says he) a faithful relation of all that my son ordered you to tell me. You very probably are going to speak of the last letter which I wrote to his majesty; and will observe to me, that it has fired the greatest part of the nobles. Your excell-



excellency, says I, has hit upon the very thing; for I was just going to begin with it. Your proposing to make all posts and employments venal in Spain, has stirred up (against you) the whole council, which, being composed of nobles whose interest it is to reject this proposal, were consequently very far from agreeing to it. But the most unhappy circumstance, added I, is; these noblemen are not satisfied with exclaiming against the selling of employments; but break into murmurs, and, by secret practices, endeavour to make you pass for an enemy to your country. They are even seconded by several Neapolitan lords, who, in concert with them, are perpetually writing letters to court, in order to make your conduct suspected.

HERE duke d'Osuna could not forbear interrupting me. These cried he, with a sigh; these are the faithful and zealous subjects, who protest they are ready to sacrifice their blood and their estates for the glory of their sovereign! If the king was to give orders, that all those posts which he now bestows, without the least pecuniary consideration, should be purchased, would any family be greater losers than mine by such a regulation? I sacrifice my relations and friends to my sovereign's interest, which is the sole object I have in view, and yet this is imputed to me as a crime. Such is the reward which too affectionate servants meet with!

Go

Go on, pursued his excellency ; I am extremely well pleased at the choice which my son has made of you, to inform me of such things as are secretly contriving against me at court ; and you acquit yourself of the commission in such a manner, as is perfectly agreeable to me. Continue therefore and tell me what farther injustice is done me. The most horrid, replied I, and the most shocking that a faithful subject of Philip can be reproached with. In short, you are charged with the ambitious design of making yourself king of Naples.

THE duke upon hearing this accusation, shut his eyes, shrugged up his shoulders, and asked me, who could be so much my enemy, as to charge me with so criminal a design. Count de Benevento, (says I) and some other noblemen, have spread such a report : which indeed your armaments, or, to speak with greater propriety, the noble actions you have achieved, and the great services you have performed, seem to justify. These, out of jealousy, affirm, that you may very justly be impeached of male-administration, and that there are proofs sufficient against you. I have done wrong (interrupted his excellency again) and now I see my error. I should have followed the example of the viceroys of Sicily and Naples my predecessors ; I should have suffered these two kingdoms to be laid waste by the Turks ; have enriched myself

self at the king's expence and that of his subjects ; and then have returned to court, there to have the highest eulogiums bestowed on me for my wise conduct during my government. Unhappy monarchy ! added he, turning up his eyes : must it so be, that those who serve thee with the greatest zeal, and whose sole endeavours are for thy glory, should be considered as thy enemies !

THE duke, after he had ended this melancholy exclamation, asked me several other questions. What lords, says he, have now the greatest share of the prince of Spain's confidence ? I named several of them, and did not forget Don Gaspar de Guzman, count d'Olivarez. This last, says I to him, seems to be the greatest favourite. He indeed, if the secret history of Madrid may be credited employs an infallible method to ingratiate himself with young Philip. What method is this you hint at, said the duke ? That, says I, which gives success to all enterprizes ; I mean money. It is said that Count Olivarez, who you know has an immense estate, spends a considerable part of it in procuring pleasures for this young prince, who is restrained by the avarice of the king his father, from many pleasures he would otherwise indulge in.

SECRET history, says I, perhaps speaks truth on that occasion ; but be this as it will, I myself know, that when the prince of Spain is in parties of hunting, he is often



regaled with splendid collations, which are prepared by the direction, and at the expence of Don Gaspar. The viceroy shaking his head at these words; Olivarez, says he, may very probably supplant the duke of Lerma and his son. I sincerely wish that my prediction may prove false: but should it unhappily be verified, they can only blame themselves for it. Why do they suffer so near the person of the heir to the crown, an artful and smooth-tongued courtier, who, in their presence, possesses himself of the helm of government.

WHEN Duke d'Ossuna had no more questions to ask, nor I any thing further to add, he delivered his dispatches to me, saying; Go and rest yourself after your fatigue; and tomorrow you shall return to Spain. However, before you set out, pay a visit to my treasurer, he having something to say to you in my name. Accordingly, the first thing I did the next morning, was to wait upon the treasurer, who presented me, by order of his excellency, with a bill of exchange, of three thousand crowns, drawn on a famous banker in Madrid, and payable at sight. I likewise received another from the vice-queen, which one of her gentlemen-ushers brought me. This was a gold chain of most exquisite workmanship, and worth two hundred pistoles at least. I set out from Naples [with these precious gifts] for Madrid, where

where I arrived without meeting any sinister accident.

C H A P. XIII.

*Don Juan Tellez marries the Duke d'Uzeda's Daughter. Sequel of this Marriage. Don Cherubim falls into a new way of Life.*

**I**MMEDIATELY I went and gave an account of my commission to Don Juan Tellez, who, after he had read his father's letter, embraced me in the highest transports of joy. This young nobleman, as a proof how well satisfied he was with my conduct; or rather, with the agreeable news I brought him, presented me with a purse, in which were two hundred Spanish pistoles.

He waited that instant on Duke d'Uzeda, to communicate to him the viceroy's dispatches; and two days after, his marriage with Donna Isabella de Sandoval was publicly notified. The preparations for it were made with all the pomp and magnificence suitable to the illustrious pair; and duke d'Uzeda was as impatient to have it consummated as Duke d'Ossuna. The relations and friends of the houses of Giron and Sandoval, solemnized it with the greatest demonstrations

of joy; and it is certain that it would have been impossible for Hymen to have united a pair better suited to each other.

SCARCE were the rejoicings ended, but the viceroy sent word to Duke d'Uzeda, that, he now had but one wish to gratify, and this was, to have his daughter-in-law with him: that he therefore desired she might be sent to Italy, in order to take a view of that country, and particularly Naples: and lastly, that, in order to make this voyage the more agreeable to the young bride, he farther desired that her husband, with his majesty's leave might accompany her. The Duke de Lerma's son was of the same opinion with the Duke d'Ofuna, and therefore obtained his majesty's permission for the viceroy's daughter to visit Naples with count d'Urenna. The preparations for the departure of this illustrious and happy couple, were soon got ready; the viceroy having expressly forbid his son to set out with a numerous and splendid retinue. They accordingly went for Barcelona, where two gallies, sent by Duke d'Ofuna, waited to carry them to Genoa; and there they were to be received by Don Antonio of Arragon, with eight gallies under his command, to convoy them to Naples.

WE very rarely find but that a beggar, when he rises to prosperity, is blinded by his affluence; and I myself was not proof against this weakness: for, upon counting my money,  
and



and finding I was worth near two thousand pistoles, I grew quite sick of the secretary's office. Methought, as I was now so rich, it became me to lead a free, independent, and, particularly an idle life, as most gentlemen do in Spain.---Since, said I to myself, it is now in my power to live in a sparkish manner, and frequent the polite world, I should be a fool to continue in the office, as I am forced to write there from morning to night. It is infinitely more agreeable to have nothing to do; to saunter from place to place, and idle away the greatest part of one's hours with jovial companions.

In this manner, yielding to the passion which so strongly impelled me, I abandoned myself at once to dissolute courses and could not be restrained from them by all the powers of philosophy. So far from it, I shut my ears to all its inspirations; and, at my taking leave of Secretary Salzedo, all the arguments he could use to detain me in the office, (tho' very rational, and embroidered with Latin) were to no purpose. I then went and hired a very genteel apartment, and bespoke two rich suits of clothes, in which I visited alternately the court and the Padro.

## C H A P. XIV.

*Don Cherubim meets with Carambola the diminutive Licentiate. The Conversation they had together.*

**O**N E day as I was taking the air in some public walks, where I amused myself with ogling the ladies who were fluttering up and down, I happened to spy my little dwarf the Biscayan licentiate, whom I had left in Toledo. He did not know me as I was so splendidly disguised; but calling to him, he came up, when immediately we embraced one another. I am overjoyed, says I, my dear friend, that fortune should have thus thrown us in each others way. —Carambola, instead of making any answer, opened his eyes as wide as they could stare, and surveyed every part of me: then bursting into a loud laugh: what a metamorphosis (says he) we have here! you a beau! in the name of wonder how came you to change the cassock for the sword? but I fancy I can guess the motive. Doubtless this transformation is owing to the beautiful marchioness, whose son you taught in Toledo; it must be she who robbed the church of the Bachelor Don Cherubim? —You are quite mistaken says I. —You then, continues he, must

must have insinuated yourself into the good graces of some rich lady in Madrid, who suffers you to share her purse? be frank, and confess that your kind stars directed you to some wealthy, fond fair-one.

GIVE me but a moment's hearing, says I to the Biscayan, and your curiosity shall be gratified. He then let me speak, upon which I told him all that had happened to me ever since we parted. I now desired him to tell me what he was doing in Madrid.---Still, still a tutor (replied Carambola, shaking his head,) I can be nothing else. My doom is passed, and I am sentenced to be a tutor, or rather a galley slave as long as I live.

At the time, continues he, that you lived at the marchioness de Torbellino's and spent your days there in infinitely greater felicity than I, who was not in any family; had no money, or was reduced almost to my last shilling; I left Toledo, as a city that grew every day more irksome to me, and went to Madrid, where I found means to get into the house of a rich citizen who was a widower, and had a son of twelve years old. This citizen seldom eat with his family; dining and supping abroad almost every day. This was of no advantage at home, to our commons, which a house-keeper of about forty five or fifty years of age, always prepared for us.

BUT surely old Nick never sent such a cook!



cook! at one time she would put too much salt in her ragouts, and at another too much pepper, cinnamon, or saffron. My complaints were to the same effect as if I had whistled to the winds; for the vixen only heightened the seasoning every time I spoke; so that I was persuaded she spoiled every thing purposely to make me hate the house and force me to leave it. The reason of this I knew not, unless it was because I behaved myself (as she was pleased to term it) like a Cato towards her.

HOWEVER, that I might revenge myself of this hag, I was firmly determined, in spite of her high-seasoned ragouts, not to leave the family; and I might have been there still had it not been for an adventure, which very probably never happened to any tutor but myself. One day, having received twenty pistoles in part of my salary, I went into a tennis court, which indeed I could never keep out of, whenever I had a crown in my pocket. Fortune, who generally is more my enemy than my friend in gaming, happened to favour me on that occasion. In short, I won ten pistoles, which were no sooner in my pocket, but I resolved to give a supper to two ladies, to whom I had scraped acquaintance with, and who lived at the Sun-Gate. I waited upon them in this laudable intention; after having first bespoke a very handsome entertainment at a tavern.

THESE

THESE ladies received me with so much the more joy, as they were always sure to be treated whenever I visited them. Our conversation soon grew very sprightly; and the supper I had ordered being served up, we all seated ourselves. I was preparing to be very merry for my money, when the door of our room was opened on a sudden, and a man burst in, whom I saw was the widower whose son I taught. He also knew me immediately; and being no less surprized than myself, both were struck dumb, and gazed one upon the other, as though we had doubted our eyes. However we soon got over our confusion, when recovering ourselves, and being no longer ashamed at our meeting together in a house frequented by ladies of pleasure; we burst into such a fit of laughter, that the nymphs naturally supposed we were two friends who happened to meet there by accident.

I FIND, gentlemen, says one of the courtezans to us, that you are acquainted. We ought to be so, replied my widower, for we see one another every day; dine sometimes together, and sleep under the same roof. Faith and troth, nothing was wanting but for us to be brother-sterlings, and that I suppose we are. He spoke these words in so very jocular a manner; that I resolved to be merry likewise, and accordingly was so at all events; being determined to affront him, in  
case

case he should offer to animadvert upon me, for having found me with these gay ladies. However my gentleman, instead of discovering the least dissatisfaction on that account, sat down with us; saying, with an air of the utmost ease, that he did not think his company would be superfluous. My spark, indeed, was in so very good a humour that I was enchanted with him. He toasted a great many healths to me, and was exceedingly complaisant; so, that I forgot insensibly that I was with my pupil's father; upon which, carousing together very jovially, we diverted ourselves in all respects.

WHEN it was proper for us to withdraw, we took leave of our nymphs, and went homeward. Being got into the house, the widower spoke thus to me: Harkee, Mr. Licentiate: I am not at all displeased at your frequenting the women we just now left; but be so good as not to take my son along with you.

CARAMBOLA could not forbear laughing as he spoke these last words, nor could I myself refrain from smiling.----This, says I, is a most excellent father, and a most charming house it was for a tutor.-----However I left it, continued the Biscayan, for the honour of my character; imagining that it was no ways proper for a vicious licentiate to live in a place where his wild pranks were known. Accordingly I am now, says he,  
in



in another family, where I bring up the natural son of a counsellor of the council of Castile; and hope to gain more by educating him than if he were a legitimate child.

I WISH with all my soul, says I to Carambola, that you may not be deceived in your expectations; for you yourself have told me an hundred times, that little strefs ought to be laid on the gratitude of parents. That is too true, replied my dapper licentiate; and yet the persons I have to deal with, appear so exceedingly generous, that I cannot forbear flattering myself with the most agreeable hopes.

C H A P. XV.

*Don Cherubim gets acquainted with a Gentleman named Don Manuel de Pedrilla. In what Manner they passed their Time together; and how agreeably Don Cherubim was surprized as he was at Supper with some Ladies.*

OUR conversation was interrupted by a gentleman whom I had lately got acquainted with, and who came up to me  
in

in the walks. I do not bid you farewell, says the Biscayan, but will soon take an opportunity of seeing you again. He then withdrew, leaving me with my new friend named Don Manuel de Padilla. He was a gentleman of the city of Alcaraz, on the confines of new Castile; was about the same age with myself, and a handsome man. He was come to Madrid to see the court. Don Manuel lodged in the same house with me; we always dined together, and went every day either to the play-house or the public-walks. In a word, we contracted so great a friendship that we became inseparable.

ONE morning as we were talking in his apartment, a foot-boy came and delivered him a letter. Don Manuel having read it, said to the bearer; Lad, tell your mistress that I will certainly wait upon her. Then turning to me; Don Cherubim, says he, I am to sup with two ladies this evening; and having the liberty to take a friend with me, should be very glad of your company on that occasion. I accepted the offer, and told him, with a smile, that I was obliged to him for the preference he gave me. You have reason (replied he also with a smile) to think yourself obliged to me; for the invitation I give you really deserve thanks. Know that you will sup with two of the handsomest and most entertaining ladies in this city. Their carriage is extremely  
grace-



graceful and easy ; and they live like women of quality, at a common expence and after the French fashion. Their house is open to all persons of a polite education and behaviour, whom they entertain with a game at cards and a supper. In all probability, interrupted I laughing, those ladies maintain themselves by play. That I know not, replied he: perhaps they are privately supported by their lovers, but they don't seem to have any. And indeed there is nothing in their conduct, that can bring their virtue under the least suspicion.

I ENQUIRED the names of these ladies. One of them, replied he, is called Ismenia, and the other Basilisa. They pass for the widows of two gentlemen of Granada ; and declare that they came to see Madrid merely out of curiosity. Which of them, says I, has captivated your heart ? I love Ismenia, replied Don Manuel ; and have reason to believe that she is not displeased with my addresses ; but unhappily she has not half the esteem for me which I could wish ; if I may judge by the returns she makes. I long, says I, to get a sight of this Ismenia, as well as her companion. You'll see, continues Don Manuel, two ladies, who I am sure, will give you so much pleasure, that you'll thank me for introducing you to their acquaintance.

IN the evening, Don Manuel took me to the gentlewoman in question, who lived

H in



in a very handsome, well furnished house. Ladies, says he, presenting me to them, I am persuaded you will not be displeased at my introducing one of my best friends, and a gentleman of distinguished merit. The ladies replied, that my aspect confirmed all the things he could say in my favour, and accordingly they gave me a most gracious reception.

I SHALL not attempt to draw the pictures of these ladies; and will only observe that I was smit with their beauties; and that after a quarter of an hour's conversation, I found myself charmed with both, tho' their turn of mind was very different; Ismenia being serious, and Basilisa very sprightly.

THE former delivered herself with dignity and eloquence, and never suffered a random word to drop from her; but as to the latter, she spoke her words as they rose upon her tongue, and generally pleased her hearers. Don Manuel perceiving that I listened to them with uncommon delight: confess, says he, Don Cherubim, that you are not displeased at my bringing you to this house.

BASILISA, hearing the name of Don Cherubim, gazed upon me very attentively, and desired to know what part of Spain I was born in. I am, replied I, a native of the province of Leon: but why, madam, do

do you ask me that question? The lady seemed in some confusion at the answer I made, and spoke as follows. I am acquainted with some persons in Salamanca; please therefore to inform me whether you was born in that city, I having some reasons to ask this.——I was not born, says I, in the city of Salamanca, but in the neighbourhood of it, viz. in Molorido, a large town, of which my father was Alcalde. What was his name, says Basilisa? Don Roberto de la Ronda, continues I——My dear brother, cried the lady (running forward to embrace me) my dear Don Cherubim, is it you! is possible that fortune should here restore you to your sister Francisca; for it is she whom you now behold under the name of Basilisa.

FRATERNAL affection did its duty on this occasion. I was so overjoyed at this unexpected meeting with my sister, that I clasped her in my arms with such a transport as deprived me of my speech for some moments. Basilisa, enraptured with these demonstrations of my fondness, was struck dumb; so that we were unable, for some time, to express our love any otherwise than by our tears. Ismenia and Don Manuel were charmed with this scene; and caressed us in the kindest manner, as a testimony of the share they both took in our joy.

AFTER these mutual endearments, we sat down again at table, and began to resume our chearful conversation, which was not now always general. Basilisa, whom I shall henceforward call Donna Francisca, would be privately asking me some question, with regard to our family; and whilst we were engaged in this manner, Don Manuel talked to Ismenia. It was very late before we took leave of our ladies; and at parting, Don Cherubim (says my sister) let me have your company at dinner to-morrow. I am impatient to know your adventures, and do not doubt, but you are as desirous to hear mine.

END of BOOK I.

THE



THE B A C H E L O R

S A L A M A N C A.

BOOK II.

CHAP. I.

*Don Cherubim de la Ronda goes and dines with his Sister, on which occasion they relate to each other the several Adventures that had befallen them since their Separation.*

**I**T was in vain, at my return to my lodgings, that I endeavoured to get a few hours sleep; for my brain was in such agitation, that I could not possibly close my eyes all that night.

I WAS not a little curious to hear my sister relate the various incidents of her past life; though at the same time I was persuaded she would not give me a genuine account of them. Francisca, on the other side, being no less eager to hear what I had to say, took no more rest than I did: so that going to her house, by the time that I imagined the family were rising, I found her quite dressed, expecting me in her apartment.—Dear brother, says she, gratify my curiosity, and after that I will indulge yours. Let me know every thing that has befallen you since your leaving the university of Salamanca? My charming sister, says I, I will comply immediately with your wishes; and thereupon I gave her a faithful account of my good and ill adventures. Having ended them, Donna Francisca congratulated me on the then flourishing condition of my circumstances; and soon after related her own story, which is as follows.

AFTER the death of Don Roberto de la Ronda, our father, or to say better, of the corregidor of Salamanca; you know that Don Cæsar, our brother, and yourself, embraced each your different ways of life; and that I continued at home with my mother, whose circumstances were so narrow, that she could not bestow a polite education upon me; all which afflicted her to such a degree, that at last it brought her to the grave. Happily for me, Donna Melancia, my grandmother,

mother, and Don Balthazar de Favarella her husband, no sooner heard of her death, but they came and took me from Molonido; and having no children of their own, brought me to Salamanca, in the design of bringing me up as their child. Accordingly, my god-mother and Don Balthazar were to me as second parents; and by giving me every day fresh marks of their love and kindness, they made me almost forget that I was an orphan.

THOUGH I was scarce above ten years old at that time, yet I was so forward for my age, that I waked a passion in Don Fernand de Gamboa, a young gentleman in our neighbourhood. He used to come frequently to our house with his father, who was so very intimate with Don Balthazar, that they were seldom or never asunder. This gave Don Fernand an opportunity of seeing and speaking to me whenever he pleased.

As he was but two or three years older than I, we conversed together unsuspected; nevertheless, we ought to have been watched; and perhaps the necessity of this would soon have been perceived, had not Don Fernand been snatched away suddenly from me. His father took him to court, in order to put him into the Spanish guards, where he, by the interest of friends, had obtained a corner's commission for his son. I was greatly afflicted, two or three days, for the loss of my



my lover; but at last, I consoled myself as well, as a girl out of her teens could have done.

A LITTLE after the departure of my young spark Don Gamboa, I had another humble servant; and who should this be but Don Balthazar. This creature, though between fifty and three score, entertained a passion for me, which I answered at first, though unknowingly to myself; receiving his fond caresses as the innocent marks of the kindness of a godfather, for by that name I called him. But this old sinner would certainly have debauched me, had not my godmother, by good luck, discovered and defeated his wicked design; by sending me immediately to Carthagená, to a convent, the abbess whereof was her relation. Thus, after shunning two dangerous rocks, I entered into this monastery, as a harbour, where one would have concluded I should have been secure from all the shafts of love: however this deity, being fully determined to make me his prey, pursued me wherever I went; and indeed I do not believe that any asylum is proof against his artillery.

THE abbess, to whom Donna Malancia, had recommended me in the strongest terms, took a fancy to me. She put me among those boarders and young nuns who composed her court, and some of them were exquisitely beautiful. These maidens exerted their

their several talents to divert the lady abbess. Such among them as had fine voices, formed a concert with those who played on instruments; such as danced gracefully conspired likewise to the pleasure of the abbess, who, when surrounded with these lovely damsels, looked like the Goddess Diana encircled with her nymphs.

I SAW, with an envious eye, the endeavours these maidens employed to please her; and would gladly have possessed their several talents, in order to ingratiate myself still more into her favour. Though I had learnt to dance some months, and had a very good voice, yet I was a mere ignoramus; or at least had not skill enough to divert our abbess, who perceiving my anxiety on that account, sent for two able masters to teach me to sing and dance.

NATURE had endued me with such a genius for these two arts, that I improved prodigiously in them, with a very little trouble to my teachers; so that in less than a twelve-month, I was judged to be the best singer and dancer in the whole convent. I also learnt to touch the lute with wonderful skill; so that I rose, by insensible degrees, to be a wonderful proficient in the several arts that grace our sex. All the ladies of Carthagena, who used to visit the convent at our festivities, made me a thousand compliments; and always congratulated our abbess on her  
good

good fortune, in having so accomplished a maiden in her community. The abbess herself took a pride in my talents, she considering them, in some measure, as her own work. Nevertheless, instead of being pleased with herself for the pains she had taken with me, she soon had cause to repent the improvements I had made. One of her nephews, named Don Gregorio de Clevillente whom she tenderly loved, came to Carthagenia, purposely to visit her; and to spend a fortnight with her, which he did every year. The gentleman in question was young, handsome, and finely shaped. He used to sup every evening in the parlour with his aunt, and her favourite boarders, of whom I had the honour to be one. The wittiest among them, whilst the company were at the repast, used to divert Don Gregorio with pleasant discourses; and, after supper was ended, such maidens as could sing or play, used to make a concert; and the entertainmeat ended always with a dance.

I OBSERVED the first day that Clevillente, overjoyed at so bright an assembly of young ladies, threw random glances round, without being able to fix his choice. One of them would charm by the sweetness of her voice, when immediately another would enchant him with her graceful air in dancing; so that he was as much divided, as a Turkish sultan is, before he can determine where to

let



let fall his handkerchief. However, he was fixed at last; and fell in love with me, though my charms were much inferior to those of many young ladies then present. This I was made sensible of, by the glances he darted on me the next day; or rather, he seemed to have eyes for me only.

I DID not seem to take notice of them, and therefore made no returns to his fond ogling. However, the devil was no loser by this, for the instant that I perceived that Don Gregorio was smit with me, I myself was struck; though till then, I had beheld him with indifference. How transported would he have been, could he have read in my countenance, the emotions of my heart! But yet, I concealed so artfully my infant passion, that he did not once suspect it: so far from it, imagining that I quite disregarded his love, he resolved to reveal it to me, one way or other; and was at last victorious, as the reader will presently find.

ACCORDINGLY, he whispered his passion to a young valet de chambre of his, who was a very subtle young fellow. Brabonel, says he to him a little after, could you contrive to slip a letter privately into Donna Francisca's hand? Surely, I can, replies Brabonel, or I should wonder at it, since I have succeeded in many more difficult attempts. I am acquainted with the portress of the convent where Donna Francisca lives;  
and

and am certain that I can easily prevail with her to serve you on this occasion. Give me but your letter, and leave the rest to me.

BRABONEL had reason to say that the portress was his friend, for she gave me the letter secretly that very day, and whispered me thus in the ear: Charming Francisca, read now what I have put into your hand, and I am persuaded it will afford you no little pleasure. I asked her what the subject of it was; but instead of making me the least reply, she flew away in such haste, that I afterwards suspected this portress had been often a little too good-natured.

ACCORDINGLY, upon reading Don Gregoria's letter, I found therein a most warm declaration of his passion; he earnestly begging me to let him have the pleasure of speaking a word or two to me in private. I confess, that I ought to have carried his letter to the abbess; however I did not, nor was once tempted to it: a girl of thirteen has not so much prudence. Being more flattered with the conquest of a lover who was far from displeasing me, than offended at his assurance, I resolved to dissemble, and try whether he would persist in loving me; or rather in endeavouring to seduce me, for that was his only aim. He therefore again had recourse to the portress, who did not only slip more Billet-doux into my hand, but prevailed so far,  
by

by her inveigling arts, as to make me answer Don Gregorio, and even to promise to meet him privately.-----Being got together; after protesting an eternal passion, he assured me that he had no other design but to marry me; but that to do this, he must be forced to run away with me, inasmuch as his aunt would never consent to our nuptials.

Don Gregorio was not put to the necessity of lavishing his rhetoric on this occasion; for I, fondly imagining I should follow a man who would certainly make me his wife, suffered myself to be carried disguised in man's apparel to Clevillente's country-seat; where, for two months I met with the most tender treatment from my ravisher. However, he afterwards grew less fond, and at last seemed almost tired of me. Upon this I put Don Gregorio in mind of the solemn promise he made to marry me, and besought him to be as good as his word. But my ravisher only made many trifling excuses, which exasperated me to such a degree, that I began to despise him. Contempt soon rose to hatred; and when I had gone thus far, I resolved to leave the perjured wretch, which I did accordingly in the bravest manner.-----One day that Don Gregorio was gone a hunting in the neighbourhood of Alicant, I escaped in the disguise above-mentioned; and travelled towards Origuela, where I arrived in the dusk of the evening.



I went into an inn which was kept by an honest widow, who taking me for some young spark that was broke loose and got upon the ramble; Young gentleman (says she) what exploit has brought you to Origu-ela? I am come hither, says I, in search of some employment. I was page to a lady in Murcia; but being no way pleased with my service, I left it; and am determined to travel from city to city, till such time as I have found a new mistress, or got into some nobleman's family.

So pretty a gentleman, says the landlady's daughter (coming up to us) will not be long without meeting with a good place in this city. I returned the compliment with a low bow; and perceived that the person who made it, surveyed me very attentively. I took notice that she was a handsome, well-shaped girl, and between twenty and thirty; an observation which any young fellow who had been in my place, would have made with greater pleasure than I.

I was extremely weary with travelling on foot the whole day, and desired them to shew me a room, being resolved to go to bed. Juanilla, says the landlady to her daughter, take this pretty youth to the room that looks into the garden; you know there is a good bed in it. Juanilla conducted me immediately thither, and when we were got into the chamber; my little page, says she,  
you

you will lie like a prince. Whenever any person of distinction sets up at our inn, they always sleep in this room.

To imitate the better a young fellow in my present situation, I thought it necessary, for me to act the spark, and be very lavish of my compliments; but at the same time I judged it would be proper to behave with some caution on this occasion, lest I should light up a flame, which it would be impossible for me to extinguish. But notwithstanding I was so much upon my guard, yet the flattering words which escaped me, were so many arrows that pierced her heart. Upon her going away, I clasped her in my arms and kissed her; but those endearments fired her to distraction. Nevertheless she flew out of the room, like a girl who feels too tender emotions, and is afraid of sinking under the frailty of nature.

I was overjoyed at her leaving me; and going to bed not long after, I fell into a sound sleep. However I awaked in the dead of night; and hearing something tread softly about the room, I started up and cried, Who's there? Immediately I heard myself thus addressed, in a soft and insinuating tone of voice :-----Charming page! who art now indulging in sweet rest of which thou deprivest others, awake, and hear the victory thou hast gained. Thou hast inflamed the heart of Juanilla, whom grief and despair  
I 2 will

will kill, should'st thou scorn her proffered love.

To amuse her, I pretended to be struck with her passion, imagining that I should get rid of her by fair speeches. But she came up to the bed-side, and was so very warm in her caresses, that it was impossible for me to impose upon her any longer. Dearest Juanilla, says I; would it were in my power to marry you! No woman in the universe could charm me so much as yourself, had heaven but created me a man, and not of the same sex with yourself.

HAD not the darkness concealed her face, I am persuaded, I should have seen her blush at these words; and when I had given her an indisputable proof that what I said was true, I fancy she was not a little sorry at being undeceived. Nevertheless resolving, like a girl of sense, to laugh at her mistake, she submitted with a good grace to necessity. Faith and troth, says she, I am more fortunate than wife; and it must be owned that I have had a narrow escape. When I reflect on my frailty, in indulging a passion for you, I shudder at a danger that has proved only imaginary. Finding Juanilla take her disappointment in this manner, I followed her example; and after making extremely merry with this unexpected incident, we vowed an eternal friendship for each other. To engage me to relate my adventures to her, she



she revealed to me those she herself had met with; and I had reason to judge, by the stories she related, that she had not always been so unfortunate, as to meet with girls under a male-habit. As Juanilla was so frank, I could not forbear being so myself. Accordingly I gave her a faithful relation of my elopement; and informed her of the reasons why I had run from my ravisher. She applauded me for the courage I had shewn, in flying from so base and perfidious a man. But now, continues she, I would advise you to lay aside your disguise, in order, (says Juanilla, with a smile) that no more of our sex may be woefully disappointed as I have been.

My only design, says I, is to get into some lady of distinction's family; and I can soon buy me clothes suitable to my sex, by selling a large brilliant, which Don Gregorio gave me. Keep your diamond, interrupted Juanilla, and let me pursue a thought that is just now come into my head. I am personally known to, (and will presume to say, beloved) by a rich and virtuous lady, who has resided in Origuela, ever since the death of her husband, who was governor of Majorca. I will speak but a word or two to her about you, and do not doubt but she will take you immediately into her service.

I THANKED Juanilla, who made such dispatch in the affair, that she said to me, the very next day; My lovely page, I have spoke

to the countess of St. Agni, who is so well pleased with the advantageous character I gave of you, that she has ordered you to wait upon her. But I must beg your pardon, when I inform you, that I acquainted my lady with the secret of your misfortune; excuse my indiscretion, but be assured that it will be of advantage to you on this occasion. The countess is the worthiest woman I ever knew. A young maiden, who has been drawn away, appears to her an object of compassion rather than of contempt. To say all in a word, she is moved at your unhappy fate, and ascribes your crime to no one but the wretch who treacherously seduced you.

You may therefore, continued my landlady's daughter, look upon yourself as one of Madam de St. Agni's family. Wait upon her this instant; she desires to see you in your disguise; after which her ladyship will order another dress to be made for you. I returned Juanilla a million of thanks for the service she had done me; and enquiring where the countess lived, I went immediately to her house.

---



---

C H A P. II.

*Donna Francisca waits upon the Countess de St. Agni. The Reception she met with, and the Conversation she had with her. Character of that Countess.*

YOU will naturally imagine, pursued Francisca, that I could not forbear blushing, at my appearing before a lady who had been informed of my story. Nay, more than this, I was in great confusion; and tho' naturally bold, I trembled as I drew near to the countess. She perceived my disorder; and guessing the cause of it; Be not cast down, says she (after ordering a woman who was in the room to withdraw) Juanilla has told me all, and I sincerely pity you. If your youth, your confusion and repentance will not plead your excuse, they yet excite my compassion.

AT these words, I sunk down at the countess's feet, and answered only by a flood of tears which I could not restrain. My tears were productive of an admirable effect. The lady was strongly affected with them, and raising me from the ground in the most tender manner; Be comforted, my girl, says she to me; your sorrow will now be vain. Form rather a strong resolution to be for  
eve



ever upon your guard against man, whom you can never suspect enough. You are but in the bloom of life; and being so very pretty, it is proper for you to be aware of seducers.

THE countess de St. Agni employed several more exhortations to excite my continuance in the paths of virtue. After this, being desirous that I myself should relate my story, she questioned me with regard to my parentage and family. Being not so meanly descended as to have reasons to blush at my extraction, I gave her a faithful account of it; was far from exhibiting our family in too disadvantageous colours, and answered all her questions with the utmost truth and sincerity.

THE countess seemed very well satisfied with my answers. Francisca, said she to me, (after we had talked a considerable time) I thank fortune for directing you to me. I feel the most tender impulses in your favour, and will be a mother to you. I gave my lady a thousand thanks for her great humanity; and being resolved to take advantage of it as soon as possible, I went to her house the next day; and was to live there, not so much in the character of a waiting-woman, as of a girl whom her ladyship had taken a fancy to, and therefore would be treated as her child.

My first care was to study my mistress's disposition thoroughly; but how beautiful  
an

an assemblage of qualities did this study discover to me ! She was affable, kind, and of a most even temper ; and at the same time witty, prudent, virtuous and devout, but without affecting to appear so. A lady of so rare a character, is too amiable not to be almost worshipped by those who attend upon her ; and indeed the countess was idolized by her domestics. With regard to myself, I was so much charmed with her ladyship, that I thought I could never do enough to please her. Though I say it, I am far from being aukward ; and I insinuated myself so happily into her good graces, that I soon won her confidence, or at least divided it with Damiana, an old waiting-woman who had lived twenty years with her.

I AM to inform you that Madam de St. Agni was at that time above threescore. She had been looked upon as a beauty in her prime, and was even handsome then ; but her charms were considerably upon the decline. One morning I was very much surprized to hear her vent a deep sigh as she was sitting at her toilet, and to see the tears steal down her cheeks. I took the liberty to ask her, but in the most submissive manner, whether she did not indulge some secret sorrow. My lady answered only with a sigh. However, I was so urgent with her to disclose the cause of her grief, that at last she could not resist my importunity. Dear Francisca, says she,  
looking

looking upon me with a sorrowful air; I am preyed upon by an affliction, which is so much the more violent, as I am forced to keep it secret within the recesses of my heart.

UPON her continuing silent; Madam, says I, let me beseech you not to stop here. Be so good as to unburthen your soul to me. Hide not from Francisca, the motive of your grief; for be assured that I share it with your ladyship, though it is yet a secret to me; and will certainly administer some ease to you, when once I shall be informed of it. I dare not disclose it to you, replied my lady; it is so extremely silly, that it would fill me with the utmost confusion, should I make you the confident of it.—You must, dearest madam, says I, (throwing myself at her feet) inform me of it; otherwise it will be impossible for me to live. Ought you to conceal any thing from me, who am entirely devoted to your service? For heaven's sake, let not your sorrows be kept a secret from me; and if it will not be in my power to console you, suffer me at least, to share in your affliction.

My concern was so very great, that at last I forced the secret from her bosom. Francisca, says she, I can no longer resist these testimonies you give me of your love and friendship; and oh! I will tell you all. Know then, my dear child, that I am grieved at the loss of my charms. I perceive them to decay daily, though I make use of the several powers



powers of art to preserve them. This afflicts me sensibly; or rather plunges me into a melancholy, which sometimes is so violent, that I dread distraction and madness. You doubtless, says she, are surprized at what you hear (and indeed this was visible from my countenance) but it is my foible; and I cannot possibly, though I employ the utmost efforts of my reason, get the better of it.

GIVE me leave, says I, to declare, that your eye imposes upon you on this occasion. Wherefore (too easy to torture yourself) do fancy yourself to be no longer what you really are? Survey the graces you really possess with more favourable eyes, or rather believe mine; they will assure you, that time has not yet so preyed upon your charms, but that you are still mistress of all your beauty. At these words, which suspended the countess's anxiety for a moment, she replied with a smile; Francisca, you are a mere flatterer, and my glass deals much more sincerely with me than you do. It informs me every day of some decay in my features, and it is impossible that my eyes should deceive me.

AFTER the countess de St. Agni had discovered so singular a secret, she no longer put herself under any restraint before me; but giving a loose to her complaints, she exhibited the same scene to me every morning at her toilet. I frequently discoursed about her foible with Damiana, who could not forbear laughing

ing at it. Was my lady, says she, a woman of gallantry, I could easily pardon her sorrow. An antiquated coquet finds so many charms in being admired, that it is no wonder she should be grieved to the soul, when she is forsaken by her humble servant; but as for our lady, gallantry has ever been her aversion. It is owing to too great a fondness for her own dear person, that she is so much afflicted at the havock which time makes in it. A woman who grows in years with so ill a grace, must surely doat upon herself.

THIS was the only error that Madam de St. Agni could be reproached with; but unhappily, there was no room to hope it would ever be rooted from her mind. So far from it, that finding herself less agreeable every day, in proportion as she grew older; such a change was wrought in her face in three or four years, that she did not dare to consult her glass any more.----Francisca, says she to me one morning with an air of despair; my dear Francisca, I am grown a poor, deformed, decrepit creature; I must strike every beholder with horror, and can never appear again in public. My only refuge must be a cloyster, where I would shroud myself for ever, rather than be a shocking spectacle to the world.

It was to no purpose that Diamana and I did whatever lay in our power to restore the countess to her right senses; and to persuade her

her to contemplate her person with more indulgence [for though she was so ancient, there were yet some remains of beauty in her face, which a coquet in her place would have made advantage of]; for in short, our rhetoric could not dissuade her from the resolution she had formed of retiring into a convent. However, before she put it in execution, she asked me whether I would willingly follow her thither. To doubt of this, says I, madam, would be doing me the highest injustice. A monastic life, indeed, cannot be agreeable in itself; but to live with you, it will be delightful.

THE countess was so well pleased with my answer, that she hugged me in her arms, and declared in the most affectionate terms, that I was her only comfort.

Soon after this, Madam de St. Agni retired into a convent, where Damiana and I immured ourselves with her. We both might have spent our days there in a calm, unruffled manner, had we not toiled during six months successively, in exhorting our lady to bear with more courage the decay of her beauties. But it was to no purpose, for she was deaf to all the suggestions of reason. Very luckily heaven interested itself in our favour. Madam de St. Agni began to entertain a just turn of thinking, and triumphed insensibly over her weakness. What a change was wrought here! This very woman who had been so vain of her graces, became at last in-



sensible to the loss of her charms, and grew sick of life.

Our excellent widow lived but two years in her retirement. She then fell sick and died; after making her will, in which her waiting-women were not forgot. She bequeathed to each of us, a thousand pistoles, in order that we might have a decent competency for life, and not be obliged to go to service again.--- Our sentiments differed very little from those of the countess, and Damiana made the following proposal to me. I am quite weary, says she, of being a servant; and have a strong desire to set up for a lady. Fix yourself, dear Francisca, in the same resolution, and let us spend our days together. Let us join our fortunes, and go and settle in one of our great cities; when setting up for persons of quality, by that means we shall get acquainted with people of fashion, and lead a charming life.---Had I been more experienced, I should immediately have disliked the proposal; and suspecting Damiana's designs, should have left her, as a wretch who only intended to ruin me: but imagining the offer she made me to be just and honourable, I was determined to accept of it. Then we held a council on the course we should take, and the result of it was as follows.

## C H A P. III.

*In what City Francisca and Damiana agreed to settle, and the Adventures which beset them in it.*

WE chose to reside in Seville; Damiana assuring me that Andalusia was the most agreeable province in all Spain. Accordingly we resolved to go thither by sea, as soon as we should have received our legacies.

THESE being paid, we went to Carthage-na, and there embarked on board a vessel belonging to Malaga, that was bound thither. We were a little sea-sick, but having a favourable wind, arrived soon at the last mentioned city, where we staid a few days; after which being determined to go the remainder of the way by land, we set out for Seville upon mules; and were so fortunate as to arrive in that city, without meeting with any of those accidents, which we had such reason to dread.

WE presently took a house near the change, and furnished it very handsomely. We then hired a woman-cook and a footman, who having no knowledge of us, could not reveal to any person those things which we desired should be concealed. Aunt, says I, one day

to Damiana for we had agreed that she should pass under this character methinks we set out in too grand a manner. Will it always be in our power to make such a figure? Be not uneasy, niece, replied she, leave but the care of defraying our common expences to me, and I will warrant you, we shall never be obliged to retrench them. We shall rather, in all probability, be enabled to live in much greater splendor.

My worthy aunt, in speaking after this manner, had certain designs in view, which she intended to carry on unknown to me. Damiana was persuaded, that we should get acquainted with some people who would be of great service to us; as we were in a city to which the fleets and galleons brought the riches of the West-Indies, viz. Spanish pistoles, ingots of gold, and bars of silver. She imagined that I should enflame the heart of some rich merchant; and that she would thereby have an opportunity of enriching herself with his spoils. Such was the mighty foundation, on which she built the hopes of our continuing the splendid figure we then made.

DAMIANA, as I observed to you, was firmly persuaded that I could conduct myself very artfully towards those who should address me, and comply with all her instructions. A Mexican gentleman happening to be one day in St. Saviour's church, whither



ther I used to go every morning to hear mass, was struck with the beauty of my shape, and still more with two large black eyes, which I turned to him, every now and then, as by mere chance. He informed me by his glances that I had charmed him. But had I taken no notice of them, they could not have escaped my aunt, who watched his every motion. Thus we both remarked that he was smit with me; and were of opinion that the American spark would soon endeavour to get access to us.

Our conjecture was not ill grounded, he writing soon after to my aunt, and begging leave to wait upon her, which she granted. Accordingly he came to our house, where Damiana and he had a long conference, in which, after protesting to her that he loved me, he offered to marry me, and carry me with him to Mexico, where, he assured her, he had an immense estate. Damiana answered, that she would inform me of the honour he intended me; and would return him a positive answer in three days.

My aunt having told me the subject of their conversation, asked whether I was desirous of seeing the wide extended regions which Montezuma had governed. In no manner, replied I; and before I could resolve to undertake such a voyage, I must love this new gallant as tenderly as I once did Don Gregorio, and that I am persuaded I never shall:

shall: so far from it, I already bear an antipathy to that West-Indian, but why, I cannot tell; except that the air of gloom which is diffused over his whole person, prejudices me against him. Let us talk no more of him, replies Damiana, I am as little inclined to go to America as you can be; and therefore when the Mexican comes again to enquire our answer, I will desire him to give himself no farther trouble.

He came according to promise. Damiana then told him, that we did not approve of his proposal, and therefore begged of him never to set his foot again in our house. He did not seem offended at the compliment; and even went away with so much unconcern, that one would have concluded he was very little affected at this denial; however, we were greatly mistaken. Being so much the more exasperated, as he appeared to be less so; instead of resolving to blot me from his memory, he thought of nothing but how he might enjoy me, in spite as it were of myself; and for this purpose, he had recourse to Romulus's stratagem, I mean he was determined to run away with me, and the result of this project was as follows.

ONE evening after I had taken the air with Damiana in the king's gardens, near which we lived; I was coming out in order to return home, when I was immediately seized by three men, who endeavoured to force me  
into

into a coach. However, my aunt and I shrieked so loud, that they were disappointed in their base design. Fortune so ordered it, that two young gentlemen happened to pass by at the same time, who observing how roughly I was treated, resolved to defend me. Accordingly they drew their swords, and ran up to the ravishers; who judging that it would be impossible for them to hold fast their prey, relinquished it, and took to their heels.

My deliverers did not do things imperfectly; but conducted me home, where Damiana and I returned them the thanks due to their generosity; and afterwards desired them to stay supper with us, which they readily consented to do. We discoursed of nothing but our late adventure; on which occasion one of the gentlemen asked me, if I could guess who was the contriver of so horrid a design. I answered, that I could not forbear suspecting it was owing to a Mexican, out of revenge for my refusing to give him my heart. I have heard enough, says the other gentleman; in less than three days we will know the whole affair. My father, continued he, is Don Indico de Mayrena, corregidor of this city. One of the Alguasil's comes every day to our house, and I will order him to go in quest of the villain. It is not enough, added he, that we have defeated their attempt; we also must punish the base contrivers of it.

Now



Now this I promise to do, and you may depend upon my word.

He uttered these last expressions with the air of a man, whose heart was already inflamed; and his friend seemed no less eager to revenge the injurious treatment I had met with.

THE corregidor's son was named Don Joseph, and the other gentleman, Don Felix de Mendoza. They seemed to be equally amorous and coxcomical; so that I expected every moment to hear some sudden and petulant love-declaration from them. Nevertheless, they were contented that evening, with barely ogling me; and their behaviour on this occasion was such, as gave me reason to conclude that I had caught two hearts with one cast of Cupid's net: they then went home assuring us at parting, that they would not fail to punish the Mexican for his base insult.

WHEN they were gone, says I to Damiana, what think you of these mettlesome blades? I am afraid they will make me pay dear for the service I have received from them. That I am apprehensive of too, replied Damiana. They both (or I am mistaken) are smit with your charms. They will not willingly sigh for an ingrate; and this is a perplexing circumstance. We very possibly (dear aunt, says I) may be mistaken; and may be alarmed without any manner of reason.

WE did not hear from, or see our deliverers

ers all the next day, they being employed in searching after the Indian, and were resolved to find him out, before they visited me again. Accordingly, two days after, the corregidor's son returned to our house half out of breath: Madam, says he to me, you are revenged. The audacious wretch who endeavoured to carry you off, is in prison, as well as the villains who laid their sacrilegious hands upon you. Their trial is now preparing, and you will soon see how zealous I have been in revenging you. I answered, that I entertained the deepest sense of the generous kindness he had done me; and only wished for an opportunity of shewing my gratitude.—An opportunity, replied he, now presents itself: return but the passion you have awaked in my heart, and I shall be repaid with interest for whatever service I have done you.

THESE words were but as the prelude to a thousand more, all which he enforced with the strongest demonstrations of tenderness. He then left me, when a moment after Don Felix, his friend came in, who made the same fine speeches to me. He vowed that no lover was ever fired with so strong a passion; protested, that he wished to live, only for the sake of adoring my charms; and of devoting every moment of his life to my service.----I must observe, that Don Felix had a more insinuating carriage than Don Joseph, and was hand-

handsomer and more amiable; but yet I suspected his whole sex so much, that he did not make any more impression on me, than his friend had done.

ALTHOUGH I did not flatter either of these gentlemen, with the least hopes of success, yet I behaved myself with great affability towards them; the singular obligations I had to them, not permitting me to do otherwise. For sometimes these two rivals disputed for my heart, by the warmth of their addresses, and yet did not seem to have less friendship for one another on that account; but it afterwards lessened insensibly; and at last, jealousy gave rise to so strong a hatred, that it ended in a duel, in which Don Joseph lost his life. and Don Felix was dangerously wounded. The corregidor being told the occasion of this duel, caused both my aunt and I to be seized; and was so exasperated, that he sent us both to the convent, where lewd women are confined.

HOWEVER, considering afterwards that I was guilty of no other crime, than the undesignedly enflaming two gentlemen with a passion for me, his justice got the better of his resentment; and he set us at liberty, but on condition that we should immediately leave Seville. We would have submitted willingly to this injunction, had we, at our release, found the goods and effects in our house which we left there; but, unhappily for



for us, they had been plundered and carried off by our two servants; so that we now had nothing left in the world, but sixty pistoles, and my diamond: we then set out upon mules, and travelled along the river Guadalquivir, till we reached Corduba.

CHAP. IV.

*Of the new Conquests which Donna Francisca made in Corduba.*

**A**S we could make but a very slender figure in Corduba, because of our great losses, we hired a small apartment ready furnished, and began to live with great æconomy. We went to church every morning; and spent the rest of the day at home, without looking out for one acquaintance. Damiana imagined that this very retired way of life, would draw the eyes of people upon us, and at last procure us some visits that might be of advantage. The event shewed that her conjecture was well grounded.

ONE day an old woman, very handsomely drest, and whose name was Camilla, came to see us. Ladies, says she, you will permit a neighbour, who is persuaded by the regular  
life

life you lead, that you are very worthy women, to pay you a visit; and declare the extreme desire she hath of entertaining a friendly correspondence with you. We answered in the most polite terms, that we were greatly pleased with the honour she did us. We then fell into discourse, the chief subject of which, was the manners and customs of the people of Corduba. There is no city in the world, says the old woman, where gallantry is more in vogue. The men are gay and sparkish even to old age, and withal, generous to prodigality. Then she related several stories of female strangers who had made their fortune in it; all which we listened to with so much attention, as shewed we were far from being displeased with them. But if Camilla perceived that we snapt at her bait; we, on the other side, took notice that our neighbour had very much the air of a procureur.

Our opinion was not all together ill-grounded. Camilla was a clandestine match-maker, whose chief business was to couple old dotards, with girls just come into their teens, and superannuated widows, with beardless boys. The very next time we saw her, she offered my aunt her service; and whispered to her, that she knew a gentleman who would suit me wonderfully well, and make my fortune. The person, says she, I mean, is the commander of Montereal, of the Fonseca family. I can't say (continued she) that he is young; but

but if we except that circumstance, there is not a more amiable nobleman in all Corduba; at least there is not one who makes himself more agreeable to our sex. Besides, he is as generous as a prince, and very rich; for his commandry (exclusive of his other revenues) brings him in ten thousand crowns annually.

THIS overture was not displeasing to my aunt, who being desirous of pluming a bird whose features were so rich and beautiful, immediately approved of Camilla's proposal; upon which these two virtuous matrons agreed, that the one should trumpet my charms and graces to the commander, and the other dispose and excite him to behold me with a propitious eye.

THE first place in which I got a sight of this antiquated nobleman, was at church, where I was with Damiana; who surveying attentively all the gentlemen round us, discovered one whom she fancied to be the commander. She made me take notice of him, and I myself imagined it to be that gentleman, by the assiduity with which he darted the most passionate glances at me, one of which I did not lose, although I affected to shun them. I silyly examined my new spark, who having put on all the borrowed charms that art could bestow, had a youthful air, although he was upwards of threescore.

L

How



How do you like our commander, says my aunt, when we were returned home? In my opinion he is not so far advanced in years, but that he may still deserve a lady's smiles. Not to mention his graceful stature; his great neatness ought to supply the place of youth in him---In short, (lovely Francisca) tell me how you like him altogether. Does not he seem worthy of your notice?-----To speak my real thoughts, replies I, he may still pass muster; but we are not yet sure that the person we are speaking of, is the commander of Montereal.---This we shall soon know, replied my aunt; our neighbour will make us a visit to day, and then we shall hear if we were mistaken.

ACCORDINGLY Camilla came to our house as we expected. She told us, that the commander in question had been at church, and saw me there; and we found by the description she gave of him, that we had guessed right. This nobleman, added she, is already enchanted with Donna Francisca. What a stately port (said he to me) hath she! and how majestic is her air! If the beauty of her face is proportionable to what I have already seen, I shall love her eternally-----He then was extremely urgent with me to procure him an opportunity of having a moment's conversation with you, which I promised, and accordingly am to introduce him to you this evening.

DA-

DAMIANA, at these words, fancying herself already possessed of the revenues of the commandry of Montereal, could not forbear discovering her joy: and I myself (to be ingenuous with you) was no less delighted. This was the more inexcusable in me, as our circumstances were much upon the decline: or rather, being perpetually solicited by my pretended aunt to make the most of my charms, it was scarce possible for me to avoid going astray.

THEREFORE I prepared to receive the commander. I spent some hours at my toilet, in consulting my glass, and still more in advising with Damiana, who pretended (she having formerly been a coquet) to have discovered which air and turn of face was the most likely to captivate. But I will be so vain as to say, that my pains on that occasion, were all superfluous; since that, in order to gain the conquest I had in view, (or rather to preserve it) I needed but reveal myself in the unaffected charms I had received from nature. My youth alone was sufficient to enflame a man of the commander's amorous disposition. The instant he saw me without a veil, the skies seemed to open to him; and so great was his astonishment, that one would have concluded he had never before beheld so enchanting an object. Camilla! says he to his conductress, in an enraptured tone of voice, you did not flatter when

you drew Francisca's picture: flatter, did I say, so far from it, you degraded the charms of that divine creature. What an angel is she! Happy beyond expression must that man be, who shall possess so great a master-piece of nature.

HAVING been so much used to flattery, I heard without the least emotion, that of the commander; who imagining it would be impossible for him to attain his ends without going a note higher, continued as follows, addressing himself to Damiana——Madam, I implore your protection; and beseech you to employ all the ascendant you have over your niece, to engage her to hear my fond vows. I will be her slave eternally; and will create a most happy change in her circumstances, which seem no ways suitable to her uncommon merit.

He paused at these words, expecting my answer, but I let my aunt reply for me. I was not satisfied with continuing silent, but affected an air of trouble and confusion, which was far from producing an ill effect. Damiana therefore spoke, and in the most artful manner. As she thanked the commander for the affection he was pleased to express for me, she observed at the same time that I merited it. She made a high encomium on my education and talents; and gave him so charmingly romantic an account of my past conduct, that the battered beau thought him-  
self



self supremely happy in getting acquainted with me.

As a prelude to the advantages we were to reap from his friendship, he desired us to quit the two rooms we were in, which we did accordingly; and went to a fine house where an apartment was elegantly furnished for our reception. He next sent several servants he had hired for us, and promised to defray all our expences. The commander, over and above all this, made us several presents; so that we now made a very genteel figure. You will naturally conclude, that I did not make an ungrateful return for so much generosity, but you would never guess what it was.

FROM the very first private interview I had with this nobleman, I knew what I had to depend upon, and the things he expected from me. Charming Francisca, says he; I am not insensible that it would be ridiculous in a man of my years, to fancy that he could inspire you with love---No, I am so impartial to myself, as to expect no other returns from you, but esteem and friendship. And, yet, shall I make a frank confession? I will.---So strong is the passion I have for you, that should you ever bestow your tenderness on another, I shall be furiously jealous.

I now reveal my whole soul to you, added the commander; and perhaps your heart may reject this sacrifice I require from you, and look upon it as a tyranny.

WHAT sacrifice is this, says I, you require? It must be something impossible, or be assured that I shall readily make it. What do you insist upon? Speak your thoughts freely. I insist, replied the old commander, that you confine your conquests to my person; and, comply so far with my fancy in that particular, as to admit no suitor but myself. Now tell me whether you are capable of having so much complacency for a man, whose only merit is the tender passion he hath for you.

I BURST into a forced laugh at these words, (for I really did not approve of this proposal of my antiquated spark); but assuming afterwards a reserved air: How! sir, says I, is this the painful struggles you require from me, in gratitude for the signal and unmerited favours you have bestowed upon me? Be assured that mankind in general are so very indifferent to me, that I could easily make a sacrifice of them all to you.-----My beau felt an extasy of pleasure as I spoke these words. He kissed my hand with an air of transport; and folding me in his arms, declared that heaven had sent me into the world to form his felicity.

I THEN vowed to admit no admirer but himself, and was very sincere in my protestations, being determined to keep my word so far as lay in my power; and accordingly, from the time we had this singular conversation together,

together, I used my utmost endeavours not to give him the least umbrage----If I was at church; instead of throwing my eyes as formerly round to the gentlemen, I studiously strove to keep my face veiled, and eluded their glances.----If ever he brought any of his friends [which was very seldom] to sup at our house; so far from endeavouring to allure them by wanton oglings, I turned my eyes away with an assiduity, which was always so pleasing to the commander, that he never failed to give me some valuable present the next day.

IN this manner I was forming the happiness of my beau, who, on the other side, did every thing in his power to render mine perfect, when our innocent union was interrupted by Cupid. The commander happened to take into his service, a young fellow of a graceful stature, and soon made him his favourite lackey. This youth was very handsome and finely shaped, and had very much the air of a gentleman. His wit and good sense was well suited to the graces of his person; and he had such an eloquent flow of words as denoted a polite education. He used to come every morning and bring me a letter from his master, on which occasion I generally fell into some discourse or other with him. I did not perceive at first that he delighted in my conversation, although I might easily have taken notice of it; for  
Mr.



Mr. Pompeyo whenever he spoke to me, would gaze with so much tenderness, that it was not his fault if I did not observe him. However, I at last opened my eyes, and discovered that I had enflamed this valet.

HERE I could not forbear interrupting Donna Francisca. Heavens, says I, sister, what are you going to tell me? Is it possible that a lackey should have fired your heart? ——— I really fell in love with him, replied Francisca, and even to distraction. But, brother, continued she, forbear the reproaches which this ingenuous confession seems to entitle you to make, and only hear me out.

THE moment I found myself ensnared, I blushed through confusion; and was ashamed to think I should fall in love with a valet; though I had heard that women of much higher birth than myself, disdained not to burn sometimes with a much ignobler flame. I now called in pride to my aid; and being resolved to stifle, if possible, an ignominious passion in its birth, I left off conversing with Pompeyo; took every letter he brought me with an air of the utmost indifference; did not speak a single word to him, and even deprived myself of the ravishing satisfaction of once looking at him.

THE poor lad was greatly afflicted at this change, the cause of which he could not guess. He imagined that I had read his rashness and indiscretion in his looks; that I was  
angry

angry with, and had forbore speaking, purposely to mortify him. His sorrow was so great that I pitied him, and soon after I could not refrain from speaking to him again. I did not stop here, but was earnest with him to discover to me what it was that preyed so violently on his spirits. Pompeyo, says I to him one day, do you love me? This unexpected question quite disconcerted my valet; however, to give him time to recover himself, I went on as follows. If you really love me, trust me with the secrets of your soul, and be assured that I will not make an ill use of the confidence you may repose in me. I have a strong suspicion that you are not the man you endeavour to pass for. Your air, your speech, and your carriage betray you, and speak a person of birth and education. You certainly have some design in view: and to succeed in it, have been obliged to disguise yourself in the mean habit of a lackey.

POMPEYO was in so much confusion when I spoke these last words, that he was struck dumb for some moments.——Your wild absence of mind, says I, and your silence, prove that I am not mistaken in my conjectures. Unbosom yourself therefore to me, and you may depend upon my secrecy.——Madam, answered Pompeyo, after recovering himself a little; since you lay such absolute commands upon me I must obey; however,

however, be assured that I shall have no sooner complied with them, but your indignation will be raised.——No matter for that, replied I with some warmth, proceed; for what you have now said, only raiseth my curiosity the more.

UPON this, the commander's footman falling down on his knees, like a stage-hero before his princess, delivered himself as follows, in a declamatory tone of voice——Madam, I will now reveal myself, since you command it. I am not a wretch reduced by fortune's frowns, to servitude and this mean abject dress. Know, that I am a person of quality in disguise, and that my true name is Don Pompeyo de la Cueva. I was travelling through this city, in which I am an utter stranger; when I happened most propitiously to get a sight of your beauty, and was charmed with it. I was told that the commander entertained a fond passion for you; and being persuaded that you would never return it, I resolved if possible, to insinuate myself into your affections; to which his advanced age, more than any merit in myself, encouraged me. I played my part so artfully that I got to be his servant, and by this stratagem had the opportunity of living under the same roof with you.

It was love, enchanting Francisca, continued he, in the softest tone of voice; yes it was love that inspired me with this artifice,

in



in order to disclose my passion to you. If you indulge it, I shall be happy beyond expression; but if, on the contrary, too faithful to my rival, you should listen to him only, though my flame is so violent, yet I will fly for ever from Corduba.

HAD not my heart been strongly prejudiced in favour of this young gentleman, I should have suspected his words, and the air of persuasion with which they were enforced. I should have called to mind that Don Gregorio de Clevillente had employed the same delusive arts; but being enchanted with Don Pompeyo de la Cueva, I did not in the least doubt his sincerity. I went farther; for I was not only simple enough to believe all he said, but had even the weakness to assure him that I was pleased with his declaration.

WORDS could never express the joy he felt, when I informed him of the victory he had gained; nor was I less pleased to see him in such raptures. In this manner I kept the vow which I made to the commander, never to suffer the addresses of any person but himself. But how was it possible to keep such a promise with an antiquated beau, when this is found extremely difficult, though made to the most youthful, and accomplished admirer? However, this I may observe in my own praise, that it was with great compunction I broke the vow made to him. I pitied the commander; and, what another girl in my place

place would not have done, I did, I resolved to leave him; my conscience not suffering me to receive his presents, and to hold a correspondence with two lovers at the same time.

As to my aunt, she was far from being so scrupulous; for finding the commander's custom more beneficial than that of his footman, she advised me to prefer the former; or else to admit both; the one for profit, and the other for pleasure, as is sometimes practised. However, I chose to follow the dictates of love, rather than Damiana's counsel; and to steal away with Don Pompeyo, who conjured me to let him convey me to Granada, where he assured me, I should lead a blissful life. I thereupon resolved to forsake my veteran gallant, and my pretended aunt; but to leave her all my effects, to console her for our separation; and give her an opportunity of subsisting, until such time as she might meet with another niece. Accordingly, taking nothing with me (as it were) but my youth and my charms, I stole early one morning out of Corduba with my new lover, and arrived in Granada the next day.

## CHAP. V.

*Who Don Pompeyo was. His ingenuous Confession, and the Proposal he made to Donna Francisca, after their Marriage.*

I HAD no occasion to press Don Pompeyo, to marry me; he being so very eager to tie the nuptial knot, that he thought of nothing else at our arrival in Granada. At last we got married, and the day after had a very pleasant dialogue.

DEAR Francisca, says he, clasping me in his arms with the utmost tenderness; we now are joined together for ever by Hymen's delightful bands. It is now, my charming angel, we ought to reveal our sentiments mutually without the least disguise. Lovers only are allowed to dissemble, but husbands ought to be sincere: therefore I will change my note, and conceal nothing. -- When I told you in Corduba, that I was only a footman in disguise, and that love had inspired me with that artifice, I spoke nothing but the truth; but when I assumed the name of Don Pompeyo de la Cueva, I will confess that I imposed upon you; and graced myself with that title, purposely to make my boldness less criminal. However, added he, though I

M

am



am not of an illustrious descent, yet I did not spring from the dregs of the people. My real name is Bartholomew de Mortero, and I am son to a venerable apothecary of the renowned city of Saragossa. This, my charming princess, is only a little stratagem I employed, and which the daughter of a petty country judge ought to excuse.

I FREELY forgive you, says I with a smile: chance doth not always match two persons so well together. But tell me, continued I, are you any thing of an apothecary? At first, answered he, I made decoctions which gave me a distaste to the business; and finding that nature had formed me for more exalted things, I turned prince. Sometimes I am a Moorish hero, and at other times a Christian king. In short, I am by profession an actor, but never play any except the first parts.

I QUESTION very much, says I, if the revenues of your principality are considerable. Not very great, replied he, unless our dramatic pieces (whether good or bad) prove so fortunate as to fascinate the eyes of the public; and bring crowded houses for two months together, which, I own, happens very seldom. But our princesses, continued he, are much more fortunate than we. Whether the stage flourishes or not, it is always sunshine with them; and they enjoy such an affluence of all things, that none but such as are eyewitnesses on those occasions could believe it.

M

They

They are idolized by the noblemen in all the cities through which we pass. At this very time, all the actresses belonging to the company of comedians, now in this capital of Granada, are perfectly well settled, from the most beautiful among them, to the very ugliest. One would conclude that actresses are possessed of a talisman, by which they enchant all persons of wealth and figure.

My husband, after thus describing the felicity of the actresses in Granada, advised me to enter among them. Francisca, says he, let me persuade you to turn actress. As you are in the bloom of life, and so very handsome, you will spend your days in a most delightful manner.--You know, says I, a woman must be born with a genius for the stage, and I have absolutely none.--Do not say so, [interrupts Bartholomew] you have a wonderful disposition for it. I heard you sing some cantatas before the commander, and was as much charmed as he with the strength and sweetness of your voice. No canary bird ever had so enchanting a warble.

Is it possible, says I laughing, that my singing should have made so agreeable an impression upon you! What then would you have said, had you seen me dance? I am persuaded that you would be still better pleased with that than with my voice.--That is impossible, interrupted he, with surprise. My angel, adds Bartholomew, be so good as

to give me a specimen of your dancing; let me see your air and manner.—I immediately danced a saraband, and exerted myself with so much grace that he was quite ravished. My dearest creature, cried he, in the utmost transports; what a treasure do I possess, since you are mistress of two talents that may be looked upon as two gold mines! Let us immediately make advantage of them. I will summon all the players together to-morrow morning, and present you, as one who will be a Peru to them.

As to myself, added he, the instant I offer my service to those gentlemen, I shall be accepted. They have heard so much of Bartholomew de Mortero, that they will be overjoyed to have me in their company. When I passed by Corduba, where your beauty forced me to stop, I was coming from Seville, where I had charmed during three years; and should still charm, had I not been forced to disappear on a sudden, upon hearing that my creditors were resolved to throw me into prison.

To conclude, my husband exhibited so many advantages, and pleasures in a stage-life, and was so urgent with me, to devote myself to it, that I at last acquiesced with his wishes.

CHAP.



## C H A P. VI.

*Donna Francisca enters into the Company of Comedians in Granada. The Reception she met with from the Public; and the great Number of Noblemen who were captivated by her Charms.*

**A**LTHOUGH I was a little emboldened by the extravagant applauses which my husband had bestowed upon me, nevertheless I was in great confusion when I went to the theatre, where the whole company of comedians were met, whose curiosity was excited by the prodigious encomiums my husband had bestowed upon me. The actresses, some of whom were pretty enough, surveyed me with a critical eye, and imputed more blemishes to me than I had; whilst on the other side, I appeared more lovely in the eyes of the actors than I really was.

WE were excessively polite to one another, and so lavish of our caresses that any one would have concluded we were very good friends. The next thing was, to know what parts I should act.—Gentlemen, says my husband, my wife sings and dances to admiration. It is my opinion, that as she is so great a mistress of those talents, she will be of as much

service as any of the actresses. As to playing, continues he, that she is to learn: but besides the happy disposition I myself know she has for acting a love part, she shall be taught by Bartholomew de Mortero, who promises to make her an excellent actress in six months.

THEY all agreed, that if I answered the character which Bartholomew gave of me, I should be of great service to them; since they had a great number of entertainments, which they could not exhibit for want of a fine singer and dancer. Upon this I was desired to sing; and the moment I had done, they all bestowed the highest applauses on me.

BUT this, gentlemen, is not all, cried my husband, (enchanted with the harmony of my voice); you will find that my wife has more power over the eye than over the ear. Accordingly when I left off, the whole company clapped prodigiously, and made me the most extravagant compliments.——

This, says one, is properly dancing; these, says another, are beautiful steps! In how graceful, and at the same time, how natural a manner doth she move!—You fortunate rogue, (whispers an actor in my husband's ear, and giving him at the same time a tap on the shoulder) where did you meet with this charming wife? With what sums of gold wilt thou soon be blessed! In a word, they

they all agreed, that I should be a treasure to the company; and accordingly I was received unanimously into it, as well as Bartholomew, who certainly was an excellent actor.

WE now were wholly employed in preparing for our appearance on the stage, which was no small difficulty to us, having very few clothes and less linen; not to mention that our money was almost gone, having scarce enough to pay our lodging. We therefore should have been very much puzzled at our first setting out, had I not been possessed of the diamond which Don Gregorio gave me. We sold it, and immediately bespoke a rich, and perfectly genteel theatrical dress for each of us.

THE day appointed for our first appearance on the stage being come, the players, who lay hold of every opportunity to raise to double prices, did not let that in question escape. Accordingly they gave out in the play-bills, that a wonderful fine player, and as excellent a dancer and singer, who was just come to Granada, would appear in the Phoenix of Germany, a dramatic piece, written by Don Juan de Matos Fragofo, and then revived. The public, who are ever fond of novelty, flocked to our house, and were extremely well pleased with my husband, who acted the part of Ricardo. I myself sung in the first act; and no sooner had I warbled



warbled a few notes, but the theatre echoed with the applauses of the whole audience. I charmed still more in the third act, which I ended with a dance. The spectators clapped so loud and so long, that one would have almost thought the house must have come down. In a word, they all seemed transported beyond themselves; and staid an hour after the entertainment was ended, to discourse upon my extraordinary accomplishments. Some declared that I sung better than I danced, whilst others protested that I enchanted the eye more than the ear; and a circumstance which raised the wonder and admiration of both parties was, to find me mistress of two talents which are so rarely united in one person. Many were smit with my youth and beauty; and some of these resolved, if possible, to ingratiate themselves into my favour.

THE second night we acted the piece above-mentioned, there was a very crowded house; and being in less confusion than the first, I sung and danced in much greater perfection than before, so that now the new actress was the only talk; and people would cry to one another, have you seen that enchanting creature? The noblemen in Granada began to insinuate themselves into my good graces by presents; receiving every morning at my toilet, some jewels, which were sent to me by persons unknown. One day

day it was a gold watch, another, a pearl-necklace with ear-rings; a third was a rich piece of tissue; or a basket filled with gloves, laces, silk-stockings and ribbons.

THE noblemen who made these presents, soon discovered themselves, were importunate in their addresses, and endeavoured to rival each other. One would be upon the watch, purposely to get an opportunity of whispering a kind word in my ear, as I went on the stage. Another wrote letters every day to me in the most tender and passionate terms; fondly persuading himself that he should thereby attain his ends. In fine, a third, employing a more effectual method, would engage an old actress with whom he was acquainted, to invite me to supper at her lodgings; and never failed to come himself on those occasions. However, none of these gallants gained a wished-for conquest. For besides that I grew more vain, in proportion as I was applauded by the public, my husband, from whom I did not conceal any thing, was perpetually exhorting me not to listen to any one, except a person of immense wealth, or a nobleman of the highest quality.

ONE would have concluded, that he had a foreknowledge of the good fortune which awaited me. Count de Cantillana came to Granada, and was presently very desirous of going to the play, upon the great character

he heard of the actors; and particularly of me. I appeared that night on the stage, and sung but did not dance; however, my voice alone was sufficient to captivate him, which Bartholomew himself told me two days after.——Dearest Francisca, says he, you have quite charmed Count de Cantillana; you could not possibly have gained a more profitable admirer, he possessing an estate of an hundred thousand crowns a year, and spending it with a truly royal magnificence, I am assured that his generosity is so great, that he sometimes makes a woman's fortune before he so much as speaks to her. By the way, he is not above forty years of age, and a perfectly agreeable gentleman.

How do you know, says I to my husband, that Count de Cantillana is fallen in love with me? You perhaps fancy so, because it is what you wish.——No, no, replied he; I had it from the count's own mouth; and can assure you, that a fine house, not far from hence, is, by his order, furnishing in a very splendid manner, for your reception.——I only laughed at what he told me, thinking he could not speak seriously on that occasion; but afterwards I found he was in earnest.

BUT this is not all, continued he; for we are to have two cooks, and other servants in proportion, who are to be paid by the  
the



of the count, who will defray our expences in general, and oblige us to keep a table of six covers; and the most charming circumstance of all is, you will not be put under the least restraint. The count does not design to set an old duenna over you, to watch your every motion. He is too fond, and entertains too high an idea of the passion of love, to shew the least suspicion; which is odious, although a person should have no intention to deceive. Being so much charmed with you, he is resolved to rely entirely on the grateful returns he is persuaded you will make to his passion.

BESIDES, over and above the presents he will make you daily, a very handsome coach will be allowed you, and the horses kept in his stable. Thus you will be carried every day in splendor to the play-house, to the great mortification of the rest of the actresses, who will be obliged to go thither on foot; or, at best, in hackney-coaches.

You express yourself, says I to Bartholomew, in such a manner, that one might conclude, you would be extremely glad, to have the nobleman in question be my gallant.

—People would have great reason to think so, replied he; and to say the truth, I had much rather you should be mistress to so great and wealthy a nobleman, than for you to entertain a silly passion for an actor, or some such creature.---Once again, I should

I should be overjoyed to see you mistress to the count; and were I to think otherwise, I should be laughed at by all the married men in our company.

UPON this I assumed a serious countenance, as though my virtue had been improved in the play-house; and chid my husband, for endeavouring to seduce me, by thinking to resign me to the embraces of another. But he only laughed at my scruples; and told me, in order to remove them, that an actress who had but one gallant at a time, was equally prudent with any other married woman who had none.——If this be the case, says I, to Bartholomew smiling; I make choice of Count de Cantillana (since you propose him with so good a grace) for my spark; and here ratify by my consent, the treaty of alliance which you have thought proper to conclude with him.

ALTHOUGH I did not seem to speak these words in a serious tone of voice, yet my husband took them as not spoken in jest. Accordingly he assured the count, that all things succeeded to his wishes: at which my spark was so delighted, that he made me a present of jewels to the value of ten thousand crowns, desiring leave at the same time, to visit me in my apartment; his lordship being too impatient to wait till I should be removed into the house which he had taken for me. I therefore received his visit, since it would

would have been rude of me to do otherwise, after I had accepted of his jewels. One morning, as I was at my toilet, he was brought in by Bartholomew, who, to give us the opportunity of conversing freely together, vanished a moment after, like a husband who understood decorum in this species of gallantry.

MADAM, says Count de Cantillana to me, I shall not make any apology for intruding on you so indiscreetly at your toilet, to pay the homage due to your charms. I am sensible that this would be a very improper place to visit most actresses in; but you, adorable Francisca, are never more formidable than when you are sitting at your glass. After this flattering compliment, he made a thousand more that were no less soothing. He appeared in all the politeness worthy the commander of Montereal, and something more; I mean he was so very handsome a man, that I should have been not a little vain, to have smit such a nobleman, had his estate been much smaller.

AFTER a pretty long conversation which he enlivened very much with his wit, he withdrew, highly satisfied with his visit, as I imagined. This indeed was confirmed to me by my husband, who coming up to me a little after: the count (my dear says he) is enchanted with your wit and politeness. This he himself has assured me; and I would  
N lay



lay a wager, that you yourself are not displeased with him--I like him vastly, says I. With such a nobleman as this, a woman makes her fortune in a most agreeable manner.——It is certain, replies my husband, that some are so insipid, and even disagreeable, that their mistresses may justly say, they dearly earn the money they get, for the liberties allowed them.

## END OF PART I.

THE

THE  
BACHELOR  
OF  
SALAMANCA.

PART II.

CHAP. VII.

*Of the new Presents which the Count made Donna Francisca; the high Regard he had for her; and in what Manner their Amour ended.*

AS soon as our house was quite ready to receive us, we removed to it. I believe it would have been impossible to furnish it in a more elegant manner, had it been designed for a princess.

THE most exquisite taste, and the greatest splendor were conspicuous in every part of it. There were two separate apartments there, the one for my husband, and the other for myself; the count ordering it so for decorum sake. Mine dazzled with gold and silver, which shone around it; and that of Bartholomew, although far less splendid, would have done honour to a knight of St. Jago.

WE surveyed the house from top to bottom; and perceived, with no little pleasure, in a kitchen well furnished with all the proper utensils, three persons employed in preparing a supper for us; that is a chief cook, and two persons under him. I supposed, when I saw such a variety of things at the fire, that an entertainment was provided for a dozen people; at least I imagined, that the count intended to regale some of his friends there, by way of wishing us joy in our new habitation. However he came alone, and I had a second conversation with him; wherein I bound him in still faster chains; especially by the charms of my voice; I mean by singing the most favourite words and airs in our dramatic entertainments; for these I always applied to the count, by gazing upon him in so languishing a manner, as quite thrilled his heart.

IF this nobleman was greatly delighted with my conversation, he was no less transported at supper. I played an hundred apish tricks purposely to enflame him the more; and



and was so happy in my endeavours, that the next day he sent me plate to the value of a thousand pistoles. Three days after, he sent me two extremely splendid dresses for the stage. In a word, not a day passed but I received some present or other from him.

THIS great number of gifts, added to the profits my husband and I got by the theatre, which, on account of our playing there, was vastly crowded, made things so easy with us, that we began to make a very handsome figure. We now hired two footmen and a waiting-woman; and I never went to the play-house, but in a very genteel coach, which I was entirely mistress of, without any expence.

AT my first appearance in this splendor, it raised the envy of the comedians, who would be very witty on me and my husband; however, at last it grew familiar to them, and then ceased to be the subject of their discourse. As to myself, who saw nothing but what was charming in this change of my condition, I imitated such actresses as were as fortunate as myself. So far from being in the least confusion on that account, I despised the tittle-tattle and malicious glances of the public; and indeed, if there was any thing ridiculous in the airs we gave ourselves, it was not we who ought to have been laughed at.

I NEVER saw any of the actresses now, but at the play-house, except one whose name

was Manuela, who lived in as handsome a manner as myself, and had also a fine coach kept for her. Don Garcio de Padul, a gentleman of Granada, was her humble servant. He had a considerable estate, and kept a noble table for her. This young actress was desirous of my friendship, and gained it by indulging me hers. We soon contracted so strict an intimacy, that we were never absent, but we longed to be together again. I know not, whether we did love each other's company, better than we could that of our sparks. The great friendship that was between us, made Don Garcio and the Count desirous of getting acquainted; and no sooner were they so, but we all four formed a society, which gaiety, pleasures and good cheer enlivened. We supped every night either at Manuela's house or mine. The whole was one perpetual scene of festivity and joy; and our intercourse was so easy and familiar, that it would have been difficult to say, whether those noblemen descended to us, or we raised ourselves to them.

WHILST we spent our days thus happily, others were wretched on my account. I hereby mean, some young fellows who used to come every night to the play-house, purposely to gaze upon me; and who concealed a hidden flame; or, in case they revealed it, were not blessed with even a kind look from me. Among these, one was distinguished

tinguished by his birth, and still more by his personal merit. His name was Don Guttiero d' Alburnelas, eldest son of the governor of Granada, and the handsomest man of his time. He was just returned from Salamanca, where he had compleated his studies; and having now got from under the government of his tutor, he began to taste the pleasure of being his own master.

THIS young nobleman never failed to come to the house, whenever I was to appear on the stage. As the looks of a lover are different from those of other people, he discovered his passion to me by his eyes. He was satisfied for a long time with barely ogling, or applauding me whenever I sung or danced; whether this proceeded from his natural bashfulness, or the supposition that it would be impossible for him to supplant so formidable a rival as Count de Cantillana. But at last silence grew quite tiresome to him; and not having power to break his passion in words, he resolved to describe his sufferings in a letter, which he got a person to deliver privately to me; but I wrote no answer to it, as you will naturally suppose. I even studiously affected, in order to deprive him of all hopes to turn my eyes from him, every time they happened to meet his.

HOWEVER, this young nobleman was not disheartened at my rigour; and believing that presents would prevail more than his love,  
and



and the numberless charms of his person ; he sent me a box of jewels of various kinds, to the value of about four thousand pistoles, which he had stole from the lady his mother. I advised with Bartholomew how to act on so delicate an occasion. There is but one way, (answers he, after musing a few moments) and that is, to send away these jewels instantly to Don Guttiero ; for be assured that if you keep them, we shall both be ruined. The governor's lady (for I make no doubt but the youngster has plundered his mother) will discover the theft before it be long ; then a diligent search will be made, and be assured they will be found in our custody. The governor himself will take cognizance of the affair, and be for tracing it, which must inevitably be of fatal consequence to us both. I suppose, continued my husband, that I need not urge any farther reasons. You know that actresses, how excellent soever they may be, run a very great hazard when they disgust men in power. You ought to dread them, when you call to mind how narrowly you escaped the resentment of the corregidor of Seville.

Your advice, says I to Bartholomew, is so judicious, that I cannot but comply with it. I have duly weighed the several difficulties you have laid before me, and therefore make no scruple to return the diamonds. Besides I am persuaded that this will have a  
most

most happy effect with regard to Count de Cantillana.——Be assured it will, replied my husband. He will think himself extremely obliged to you for thus sacrificing Don Guttiero to his passion; and you will probably gain more than you will lose by it. As I found it would be impossible for me to keep the jewels without exposing myself to imminent danger, I returned them to the governor's son with the following compliment; that it would not be in my power to make a proper return for the noble present he had sent me, I therefore had taken the liberty to return it.

BARTHOLOMEW and I were not mistaken, in supposing that the count would be highly pleased with my giving up so dangerous a rival for his sake. The instant it was told him, he seemed raised to an ecstacy.——And do you prefer me, says he, to the handsomest and most amiable man in all Granada? Lovely Francisca! Would to heavens you could now see into the inmost recesses of my heart! then you would be an eye-witness, how strongly I am affected with this glorious preference.——Count, says I to him, with an air of the utmost tenderness, I do not pretend to make a merit of this. Can a heart which you engross, be unfaithful to you? No, no count, (continued I, with a passionate look) be assured that it would not be possible

possible for Don Guttiero, or any man living to dispossess you of it.

THE count, at these soothing words, threw himself in transport at my feet, and breathed his passion in the most melting expressions. After this my spark changed his note, and employed such a style as suited my inclinations better than the common places of gallantry.——To compensate, says he, for the jewels you have refused, I will make over to you a country-seat I have on the banks of the river Guadalquiver, between Jaen and Ubeda. The estate lying round this seat is not very considerable, but then it is delightfully situated.——I thanked the generous count for this new gift, which that very day was made over to me by due form of law.

BARTHOLOMEW was in raptures when I told him the new acquisitions my charms had made.——I knew very well, cried he, that you would be richly rewarded for the sacrifice you made of Don Guttiero, to the count's passion. How! a country-seat, says he. It must be confessed Cantillana is very much of a gentleman. In short, my husband was in such transports, that he could scarce contain himself; and being impatient to see this seat which devolved to us at so very easy a rate, he rode post, and took possession of it. Being returned a few days after; Count de Cantillana, says he, has indeed made you a nobler present than you imagine. I must give you  
some



some account of it. It is so delicious a place, that one would imagine it had been built for the reception of the king of the fairies. Upon this he gave me so magnificent a description of it, that I could not forbear interrupting him five or six times, to observe that he must certainly exaggerate the beauties of it.----Very far from it (says he every time I spoke); instead of embellishing it by my expressions, I have rather lessened it, for it is certainly a master-piece both of art and nature.

BESIDES (continued he) the delightful prospect round it, the lands belonging to it are let to the richest farmer in those parts, at the rate of three thousand crowns per annum. This is fact, because I myself saw the leases; besides I am lord of the manor (and consequently you the lady) of the village of Caralla; so that we shall have precedency of all the Hidalgos (gentlemen) in the parish; which is no insignificant prerogative. We indeed shall excite some laughter on account of our present profession; but this will be a trifle, as we shall enjoy the income of our estate, and the several rights of our lordship. And now, let fortune smile or frown on our theatre; let our new plays meet with applause or be hissed off the stage, we are sure never to want a house and a very handsome competency.

IN this manner my husband rejoiced to see us possessed of a secure asylum, which is very seldom the reward, even of such players as are grown grey upon the stage. I was as much delighted as my husband could be, and this the public were soon sensible of; for I now appeared less frequently on the stage, and at last quite left it; this I did in imitation of some famous players, who, upon pretence of taking care of their health, came seldom or never to the theatre. Methought that a lady who had an estate of three thousand crowns per annum, might very justly assume the same airs; and Bartholomew, imitating the example I set him, played but very seldom. But this very much disgusted the rest of our company, part of whom soon entered into a combination against us, which immediately gave rise to factions.

I AM now come to an æra that proved unhappy to me. Count de Cantillana received dispatches from court. The duke de Lerma, whose favourite he was, intreated him to come immediately to Madrid; this minister having pitched upon him to succeed a counsellor of state who was just dead. Although the count was the better pleased with these dispatches, because his passion for me was now in its decline, yet he assured me that it grieved him to the soul; and he was almost tempted to refuse the post that was offered him. He observed however, that in case he did not  
accept

accept of it he should disoblige all his relations, and for ever lose the duke of Lerma's favour.

IN fine, to sooth me, he clasped me in his arms, and vowed never to blot from his memory, the beauties of his adorable Francisca. I pretended to believe his protestations; and as a good actress can call up tears at pleasure, I shed a flood at our parting.

---

CH A P. VIII.

*What happened to Donna Francisca, after the Departure of Count de Cantillana.*

SUCH was the adieu between Count de Cantillana and I; and much about the same time Manuela was abandoned by Don Garcio; few noblemen being famed for constancy in love. Padul, upon the specious pretence of going to see an uncle of his who was sick in Badajox, left his mistress and Granada. Happily we both were in very flourishing circumstances, and of an age to console ourselves for the loss of our fickle lovers. The moment they had left us, we had other gallants, but besides that we should have been puzzled in our choice; the contests and divisions in our company of comedians,



rose to such a height, that my husband and I grew tired of the stage, and were determined to leave it. Dear Manuela, says I; I am quite sick of exposing myself in a play-house. Therefore I am resolved to retire to my country-seat in Caralla, and live as a lady of the manor should do. My dear, I hope that you have so much affection for Francisca, as to prevail upon yourself to live a retired life with her.

YOUR doubting of it, says she, is injurious to me; for you cannot but know, that there is nothing in the world I prize so much as your friendship; and I should be unworthy of it, did I refuse to accompany my dear Francisca, and share the sweets of her solitude. Let us therefore (continued she) set out forthwith; for be assured, my dear Francisca, that I am ready to sacrifice all the gallants in Granada, to the esteem I have for you. Accordingly we both left our players, as likewise did Bartholomew, who, preferring the part of lord of a manor, to that of a theatrical hero, conducted us with great pleasure to Caralla, where we arrived in a very handsome coach, which we had purchased with our own, or rather with the count's money. We were followed by a chaise, in which were my waiting-woman and Manuela's; afterwards came six footmen, riding on mules, with our baggage; and lastly our cook, and my husband's valet mounted on good horses;

all which composed a retinue, that excited the admiration of the peasants, and the envy of the Hidalgos.

WHEN I saw our country-seat, I did not find that my husband had lessened it in the description; however, it seemed finely built and extremely well furnished; and was kept in as much order, as if the count himself had usually resided there. I was particularly pleased with the beauty of the gardens, and the prospect of spacious meads which extend northwards, as far as the banks of the Guadalquiver; nor was less delighted with the woods which appear to a great distance toward the south. Bartholomew perceiving that I was charmed with this abode, spoke as follows with an air of triumph;—

Dear Francisca, was I too extravagant in the praises I bestowed on your country-seat? Do you think we shall not breathe as pure an air here, and have as lovely prospects, as in any part of Spain? You certainly will, cried Manuela, still more enchanted than I with the beauty of our retirement, and it must be confessed that this is a gift worthy of a prince. If the gentry in our neighbourhood are but ever so little sociable, we shall spend our days in the greatest felicity.

It must be confessed, says Bartholomew, that the Hidalgos are a haughty sort of people. When a person of a low education, and still meaner abilities, happens to be their

lord, such a one cannot expect genteel treatment from them; but as we are good players, we shall soon find out the secret how best to sooth their stupid pride. This should be but a small mortification to us; since, by indulging their vanity, the different ridiculous characters that must be found among them, will afford us a perpetual farce.——

I fancy, says I, they are not such despicable creatures as you imagine; and am persuaded, that some of them are good sort of people. But, what kind of creatures soever they may be, we will oblige them, by the civility and politeness of our behaviour, to treat us with decency.

It is certain that we had no very great notion of this set of gentry; most of whom had no better dwellings than cottages. We supposed them to be mere ignorant rustics; and therefore were greatly surprized, when they came to our house, to find them so well bred. Their women especially shewed, by the compliments they made, that they possessed both wit and sense; and I observed that some of them had a very graceful carriage. They all met with so very handsome a reception from us, as gave them the most just reason to be satisfied with their new lord and lady; and this indeed they shewed, by their protesting that they thought themselves extremely happy, in having a lord of the manor who



who behaved in so gallant a manner towards the gentry.

WE returned their several visits, on which occasion we were strictly upon our guard not to say or do one individual thing that might shock their vanity. By this caution, without which it would have been impossible for us to live in any harmony with them, we won their friendship. The several ceremonies being over, nothing was seen but festivities and entertainments: so that few evenings passed, but we entertained four or five of these *Hidalgos* and their wives or sisters, at supper; after which we had a kind of ball, and this often lasted all night. I generally spent the days at home, either in play, or in chatting with my rural female neighbours; during which my husband used to take the diversion of hunting with the men. Such were our amusements, and I soon might have indulged in many others.

AMONG our gentry, was a man named Don Dominic \* *Risador*, whose name suited perfectly his character. He was a churlish wrangler, and a hot-headed disputant, in short, a mere brute; and to crown all his ill qualities, an insupportable proud wretch. No female had yet been charming enough to soften his stubborn disposition; this being a conquest reserved for me. He was smitten with my beauty; and thereupon broke his passion.

\* A Spanish word, signifying a quarrelsome man.

to me with the insolent confidence of a gallant, who imagines that his love reflects honour on the woman who is the object of it. Although I had an aversion to Don Dominic, yet I listened at first to his addresses without shewing the least disdain; but upon his growing importunate, I told him plainly that I absolutely did not like him; and therefore intreated him never to trouble me more.

PERHAPS (brother) you will suppose, that Don Dominic, mortified at the ill success of his declaration, withdrew in a fury, and that his love was now turned to hatred. But so far from this, he only laughed in my face, and swore he would love me in spite of myself. I am not, continued he, so easily repulsed as you may imagine. I know your sex; and therefore am not so stupid, as to look on their grimaces, as proofs of their virtue. Come, come, my princess (says he) change your note. Lay aside those trifling things called decorum and ceremony; and be assured they become you worse than any woman in the creation.

THESE saucy addresses made me lose all patience; so that in the first transports of my anger, I treated Rifador like a wretch as he deserved. Still he only sneered at my reproaches; and at his going away, set up such a horse-laugh, as swelled me almost to fury. In short, I cried for madness; and the tears were in my eyes, when Manuela came running

ning to me.——Heavens! says she, dear Francisca! What is the matter? Is it possible for you to have the least cause of sorrow in a place where every one makes it his study to please and divert you?

I INFORMED her of the scene that had passed between Don Dominic and myself; but after I had told her all, instead of joining in my resentment, she only laughed.---P'shaw, p'shaw, says she, never mind it; instead of being vexed at the ridiculous rudeness of so unpolished a lover, you should rather be pleased at it; for the contemptuous return you make to his passion, will sufficiently revenge his great impertinence. You say very right, says I, kind Manuela: instead of putting on a serious face, I will henceforward only laugh at his rude follies.

---

---

C H A P. IX.

*Of the fatal Accident which happened at Caralla, and the Consequences of it.*

**T**H E R E F O R E I was determined still to admit of Don Dominic Rifa-dor's addresses, and at the same time to hate him as heartily as ever; but now he left off coming to our house. His pride getting the better of his passion, had made him, at last,



last, resolve to punish me for my disdain, by never honouring me again with his visits.

BUT his vengeance did not stop here; for he affronted my husband, who loving a sword still more than he, obliged Rifador to draw, and wounded him in a dangerous manner. However, Rifador recovered; and this bloody business was so well hushed up, that not a word was said about it. Nevertheless, six months after, Bartholomew happened to be out a sporting alone, was met in a wood by Don Dominic, who was so complete a villain, as to shoot him through the head in the most treacherous manner. Although no one was present on this occasion, the wretch who committed the murder, was firmly persuaded that I should suspect him, and get him seized; for which reason he fled, in order to escape the punishment due to his crime.

I BEWAILED my husband's death with a flood of tears; and my affliction was the greater, because it was not in my power to revenge his loss. However, at last I began to be comforted by the kind assistance of Manuela, who, ever ready to serve me, had the happiest talent in soothing my sorrows. This fatal accident (as you may suppose) interrupted at once all our pleasures; or rather, we began to be weary of our solitude.——

I know not, says I one day to Manuela, whether you are of the same mind with me; but

but I really begin to be sick of the conversation of these insipid rural gentry and their wives. I cannot say what it is that occasions this change in me; whether it be the effect of my natural fickleness, or the consequence of my husband's death.-----It is certainly owing, replied Manuela, to the just delicacy of your taste: nothing being more natural than for a young woman, who hath so long been the idol of the nobility, to grow soon tired of such creatures as compose this neighbourhood.

Do not imagine, continued she, that I am better qualified for a solitary life than you are: for to tell you frankly my thoughts, I myself am so weary of this country seat, that were it not for your company, it would be impossible for me to live in it. Now I am no longer diverted with the crowd of fools who come to visit us. Ridiculous characters delight at first; but they afterwards displease, and at last, are insupportable.---My dear Francisca, I have for some time entertained a thought, which I have not yet communicated to you, and only wish that you may approve of it.

I ASKED Manuela what her thought was. ---It is this, replies she; I would have us leave the country for some years, and go and settle at Madrid. Our fortunes are considerable enough, to enable us to live in splendor in that city; and we may easily pass  
for

for women of quality, being so well acquainted with their behaviour and manner of life.

— Now tell me, what is your opinion of this proposal; will it obtain your approbation? that you need not doubt, replied I; I really am quite charmed with it. What a crowd of delightful images doth it present to my mind! and therefore, Dear Manuela, let us immediately put it in execution. — I am overjoyed, says my companion, to find you think so well of our leaving these tiresome scenes; and something whispers me that we shall not repent it. Let us therefore set out as soon as possible. Leave the care of your country-seat to the farmer; order him to receive your rents, and remit the money to you at Madrid. I will join the fortune, which Don Garcio was pleased to bestow upon me, to yours; and then we may live like Dutchesses in the capital of the kingdom.

WE now were wholly employed in preparing for our departure, and all things being ready for it, we set out with our waiting-women; all four in the same coach; being attended by two footmen, mounted on mules, and well armed. After a long and tiresome journey, we arrived at last in Madrid, where we thought proper to change our names. Manuela called herself Ismenia, and myself assumed the name of Basilisa, when setting up for the widows of two rich gentlemen of Granada, we hired a house, and began to see company.



company. Our easy and unaffected carriage, drew a great number of polite people to us, and we won their esteem by our prudent behaviour.

WE are visited, continued my sister, by a considerable number of gentlemen of the best fashion, and I believe they all have a very great regard for us. You yourself may judge of this from Don Manuel de Pedrilla, your friend. I know not what character he may have given you of us, but this I am sure, that if he spoke the truth, he cannot have told you any ill of either. Although we allow him the freest access to our house, yet we defy him to say any thing to our prejudice. He cannot have observed any circumstance in our behaviour, that could give him the least dislike to it, and, although we do not imitate those austere ladies who will not allow themselves even so much as to speak to a man, we are not therefore less virtuous.

---

C H A P. X.

*The Conversation which Donna Francisca had with Don Cherubim, after she had told her several Adventures.*

**H**ERE my sister Francisca ended the relation of the various fortune she had met with; and afterwards smiling;---  
 Brother,

Brother, says she, what think you now of Bartholomew's widow? Do not you look upon her as a lady of some importance? Certainly, replies I; you have indeed made a very rapid progress. I give you joy on that account; and thank heaven that I have a sister in such flourishing circumstances. But I am afraid of one thing: our family are too apt to fall martyrs to love; and therefore I am prodigiously apprehensive, lest, among the different gentlemen who visit you, some one of them should be found amiable enough, to dispossess you of your country-seat, and the estate round it, the very same way that you got it. Do not harbour any such fears, answered Francisca; there is more probability of my gaining such another, than of my parting with that I am mistress of, upon the very easy terms you hint at.

BUT let us wave this subject, continued she; and since I have the pleasure of meeting with my dear brother, I beg we may never part again. If you will accept of an apartment in my house, it is heartily at your service. You will then favour Manuela and I, with your counsel; probably some very delicate circumstances may happen, in which your sage advice will be of great service to us, and prevent our taking many a false step. Come; indulge my wishes in this respect.

I own that I did not much relish this proposal at first, having no great inclination to be

be the counsellor and guide of two beautiful women, whose virtue I could not forbear suspecting, although my sister had boasted of hers so much. Nevertheless, I could not excuse myself handsomely, and therefore acquiesced with her desires; upon condition, however, that I should have the liberty to leave them, in case any thing should happen that might give me disgust.

CHAP. XI.

*Don Cherubim goes and lives with his Sister. Of the new Acquaintance he got at her House. The high Regard that was paid him, when he was known to be Basilisa's Brother.*

THUS was I obliged to go and reside with my sister and her worthy female friend. They gave me a small, but neat apartment which was to spare in their house. Accordingly, I went to them that very evening, with Don Manuel de Pedrilla. — Excellent friend, says I to him, you must see me settled in my new habitation, where, be assured, the greatest pleasure I shall enjoy, will be the serving of you to the utmost of my power with respect to your Ismenia. — I am far

P says



says he, from rejecting your good offices; but am afraid they will prove ineffectual; for although Ismenia seems to have some regard for me, yet I cannot prevail with her to complete my felicity; and question very much whether your friendship will have a greater ascendant over her, than my love.

THERE came to sup with my sister that evening, two knights of St. Jago, who hugged me almost to pieces, when they found I was Basilisa's brother. Sweet sir, says one of them to me, let me embrace you for the love I bear your charming sister.——There is your very picture, says another to Bartholomew's widow. How overjoyed must you be at this unexpected meeting! Be assured that I partake in your reciprocal satisfaction.

THESE compliments served only as a prelude to a thousand more, with which I afterwards was almost overpowered; all which I returned like a man who had been used to polite company, and was no ways confounded on those occasions. Accordingly, they appeared greatly satisfied with this specimen I gave them of my sprightliness and wit; and were still better pleased at some smart repartees I made at supper, and which were highly applauded by them.

THESE gentlemen, whose names were Don Denis Langaruto, and Don Antonio Peledor, differed very much both in person and character. Don Denis was tall, and a skeleton-like

like creature, and Don Antonio was short and thick. The former, to show his learning, was for ever discoursing on the sciences; whilst the latter, who set up for a champion, quite stunned us with the relation of sieges and battles. In a word, they seemed to strive who should make us yawn first. The instant one of them had cited a passage from an antient author; the other, (before he had well finished) would begin a long Canterbury story of a duel he had fought. Whilst these gentlemen were regaling us in this delightful manner, Don Manuel and his lovely Ismenia would dart the most melting glances at one another, which compensated for the stupid harangues of our two chattering guests; or rather, which charmed the pain they otherwise would have felt had they listened to them. As to Francisca and myself, we were so very polite as not to let a word pass; and even seemed to be highly delighted with their stories.

BUT when these two odd mortals had left us, I resolved not to spare them. If all the gentlemen, says I to my sister, who visit you, are as insipid as these two, I fancy you may justly regret, your Hidalgos of Caralla. It must be owned, says Francisca, that they are both noisy fellows; but you will meet with some, who I am sure, will please you better. However, I was ten times more tired (if possible) with two clerks belonging to the duke

P 2

de Lerma's office, who supped with us the night following.

THESE men, who expected to be used with as much ceremony, as if they had been secretaries of state, assumed an air of impertinent gravity. Upon hearing that I was Basilisa's brother, they did not throw out a flood of compliments, like the knights of St. Jago; but just honoured me with a nod, as if they had been counsellors of the council of Castile. Though they were smit with the ladies, yet they did not discover the least emotion. So far from addressing them in an amorous style, they continued proudly silent; or if they happened to open their mouths, it was only to drail out a monosyllable or two. I imagined however, that they would not be quite so mute at supper, but expected to see them lay aside, insensibly, their stately airs; and be a little sociable and merry, as austere persons are generally observed to be on those occasions. But neither the good humour of the ladies, nor all their blandishments, had the power to smoothe that proud surly countenance which their office gives; nor could extort so much as a smile from them. In short, I never in my life was so sick of any people, as of these two clerks.

THE instant therefore they were gone, I took my sister again to task. How is it possible says I, (being mistress of so much sense and taste as you are) that you let such fellows come near your house? These clerks  
are



are much worse company than the two knights of St. Jago.——Francisca, since you delight so much in being visited, methinks you ought to make a better choice.——Have but patience, replied my sister, and you will see many gentlemen here, whose acquaintance will be very agreeable to you.

ACCORDINGLY, we were afterwards visited by several, who might be looked upon as the quintessence of gallants, and whom I could not forbear considering as a sort of brothers-in-law to me, although my sister was for ever protesting, that she always kept them at a due distance.

THERE was one among the rest, named Don Andrew de Caravajal de Zamora, who was master of all those good qualities, part of which only are generally possessed by such as are thought the most accomplished men. This gentleman was no sooner told that I was Basilisa's brother, but he employed his utmost endeavours to ingratiate myself into my esteem. He was not obliged to take much pains on this occasion; being one of those men whose amiable carriage creates veneration at first sight. We were no sooner acquainted, but he wanted to be something more than my friend, and intrusted me with the following secret---Don Cherubim, says he, I love your sister; and should look upon myself as the happiest of men; could I obtain her for my wife. My birth and fortune are so considerable,

able, that I flattered myself with the hopes of meeting with her favour; but I perceive that she has an inclination for another, and I have the greatest reason to dread this rival.

I ASKED Don Andrew who this formidable gallant could be. You would never guess, replied he; and when I shall have named him, you will hardly believe your ears: in short, it is not Don Felix de Mondejar, nor Don Vincent de C fuentes——It is, it is——Don Pedro Retortillo.——Impossible! cries I, in the deepest amaze. Don Pedro, the ugliest and most stupid of all my sister's admirers; that capricious fellow! that coxcomb! No, I will never believe she can be so much depraved in her taste, as to prefer such a worthless wretch. You may rail at him as much as you please, says Caravajal; but it is certain he has won Basilisa's heart. She is blind to all his faults; she thinks him extremely handsome; and is charmed with his wit, what nonsense soever may trickle from his tongue.

I PROMISED Don Andrew, that I would do all that lay in my power to set my sister against Don Pedro; and accordingly had a long conversation with Francisca on that subject, the result of which will be seen in the following chapter.

## C H A P. XII.

*The ill Success of the Service which Don Cherubim endeavoured to do Don Andrew his friend.*

I KNOW not, says I, sister, whether you remember that you intreated me to assist you occasionally with my advice. I do remember it, dear brother, replies she, and still beg you to favour me with it. If so, says I, I will set up myself as your counsellor; but first let me ask you a small question, to which I desire a faithful and undisguised answer: Do you love Don Pedro de Retortillo.

THESE words called up all my sister's blushes, and threw her into the utmost confusion.—— You redden says I, Francisca! methinks I need not wait for your answer, but may easily read in your cheeks.——

And do you love Don Pedro! Heavens! is it possible you should have placed your affections on that man, who, among all the crowd of your admirers, is least worthy of possessing you!

Who, replied she, can have disclosed a passion to you, which I thought was concealed from the whole world!—— I told her that one of Don Pedro's rivals had discovered it.

I will



I will lay my life, says my sister (with great emotion) that this so eagle-eyed lover is Caravajal.——And so you have undertaken to be his spokesman? Well, (continued my sister) since he has found out the secret of my soul, I will not deny it.—Don Pedro has indeed completed the conquest of my heart:——I will not offer to conceal this from you; and am only sorry that you happen not to esteem that gentleman; however I must inform you that I am charmed with him; and prefer him before Caravajal, as I should do had he a thousand rivals.

ON this occasion, says I, dear sister, (interrupting her with some warmth) I must differ from you. I can see nothing in Don Pedro, (excuse my freedom) but an assemblage of bad qualities. He is sour, clownish, passionate, capricious; and at the same time, (or I am greatly mistaken) of a very jealous temper.—How odious soever he may appear to you, or you may represent him to me, (interrupted Bartholomew's widow in an angry voice) I am firmly determined to make him my husband; and should you endeavour to set me against him, I shall never desire to see you more.

FRANCISCA spoke these words in so resolute a tone, that I was struck dumb. I now did not dare to censure her for the ridiculous fondness she showed for Retortillo, nor so much as speak a word in favour of Caravajal;

Don Pedro's rival had discovered in her I

who, notwithstanding his exalted merit, and the numberless good qualities he possessed, was yet forced to yield to his worthless rival. This mortified me the more, because my friendship for the one increased, as much in proportion as my aversion to the other. I detested my sister's thoughtless caprice; and began to think that we should not live long together.

AND indeed, from this moment my sister changed her behaviour, and no longer shewed the tender regard she till then had discovered for me. She even studiously avoided speaking to me; and when there was no possibility of her doing this, she always answered with the utmost coldness and indifference. In fine, not being able to prevail with herself to forgive me, for not approving the resolution she had formed to marry so insipid and worthless a wretch, she now considered me in no other light, than an impertinent and troublesome censor, whom she ought to get rid of. The instant I perceived this, I left her, and went to the house I before had lodged in; and so had once more the happiness of living under the same roof with my good friend Don Manuel.——After this, let any one boast the ties of blood; for how great soever the friendship may be between brothers and sisters, it is certain a trifle will often dissolve it.

AFTER our separation, I did not once visit Franeisca, who, in a few weeks, was married



to Don Pedro, and that very unhappily for her, since instead of meeting with the same good nature and complacency from him, as her first husband had indulged her, she found that she had thrown herself into the arms of the most jealous creature living. The very day after their marriage, her house wore a quite different face. The gentlemen were all forbid access to it; no playing was allowed, nor one entertainment given. Don Pedro changed every one of the servants, and set the most snappish Duenna in all Spain, to be her Argus. In a word, she who had been the happiest of widows, was now the most wretched of wives. I heard not long after, that he had carried her into the country with Ismenia; so that Don Manuel was forced to bear with the absence of his mistress, and I with that of my sister.

END OF PART II.

THE



---

THE  
BACHELOR  
OF  
SALAMANCA.

---

PART III.

---

CHAP. I.

*Don Manuel being obliged to return to his native Place, prevails with Don Cherubim to accompany him. Their Arrival in Alcaraz.*

AS a man obliterates the remembrance of a sister, much sooner than he forgets a mistress, I did not once think of Donna Francisca, four and twenty hours after I had left the place where she lived ; but it was more than

to Don Pedro, and that very unhappily for her, since instead of meeting with the same good nature and complacency from him, as her first husband had indulged her, she found that she had thrown herself into the arms of the most jealous creature living. The very day after their marriage, her house wore a quite different face. The gentlemen were all forbid access to it; no playing was allowed, nor one entertainment given. Don Pedro changed every one of the servants, and set the most snappish Duenna in all Spain, to be her Argus. In a word, she who had been the happiest of widows, was now the most wretched of wives. I heard not long after, that he had carried her into the country with Ismenia; so that Don Manuel was forced to bear with the absence of his mistress, and I with that of my sister.

END OF PART II.

THE

THE  
BACHELOR  
OF  
SALAMANCA.

PART III.

CHAP. I.

*Don Manuel being obliged to return to his native Place, prevails with Don Cherubim to accompany him. Their Arrival in Alcaraz.*

**A**S a man obliterates the remembrance of a sister, much sooner than he forgets a mistress, I did not once think of Donna Francisca, four and twenty hours after I had left the place where she lived ; but it was more than



than a month before Don Manuel could banish Ismenia from his mind. In fine, these ladies were no longer in our thoughts, when my friend received a letter from Alcaraz, informing him that Don Joseph his father, being seized with a mortal disease, wished to die in his arms. Don Manuel, greatly afflicted at the news, prepared immediately to comply with his father's orders; but being desirous also of reconciling duty with the friendship he had for me, he intreated me to accompany him, and I could not refuse his request.

ACCORDINGLY we set out from Madrid, with only one servant, being all three mounted on good mules; and arriving at Alcaraz, in less than six days, we found Don Joseph so very sick and weak, that we judged it could not be long before he took his last journey. There were two physicians in his bed-chamber, who saluting Don Manuel, said to him with a jovial air; Your father would have died three days ago, had not the uncommon efficacy of our medicaments, and our great care prolonged his life till your return. He desires the satisfaction of a parting embrace from you, and this we have been so happy as to procure for both. — The doctors could not have discovered more joy, had they recovered their patient. But now the old gentleman whose end was very nigh, had no sooner seen his son, but he breathed his last, and

and left his whole family in the deepest sorrow.

THE only surviving relations were an old sister, a young daughter, and Don Manuel. These bewailed his death with floods of tears, and solemnized his funeral obsequies in a manner worthy of a gentleman who had been a general officer in the king's armies.

THEIR grief being at last dispelled, and Don Manuel having taken possession of his father's estate, he again frequented company, and began to share in the usual diversions. His first care now was, to introduce me to the best families in the city, as his intimate friend. In this character I was to appear, which, without vanity, I maintained very well. My pockets were so full of money, and my clothes so rich and genteel, that I was far from making a mean figure. I gave the ladies many treats; and will presume to say, that they shewed me as much respect as they did my friend.

OUR sex cannot long frequent pretty women, without paying the tribute due to their charms. Don Manuel was at last struck with a fond passion. Donna Clara de Pacomar, a young lady of great beauty in Alcaraz, assumed the place which Ismenia had possessed in his heart, and even lighted up a stronger flame in it. As to myself, I made my court to the ladies in general, and did not shew a regard to any of them in particular, which

Q

surprized

surprized my friend very much. Don Cherubim, said he to me, must all the ladies in Alcaraz be so unhappy, as to favour you with their kind glances to no purpose? Will not one of them arise, and, in the name of the rest, revenge the injurious indifference they still meet with from you?

I LAUGHED at Don Manuel's reproaches, but alas! he would have forbore them, had it been possible for him to see into the recesses of my heart. So far from being insensible, I was fired with the strongest passion for Donna Paula his sister. I worshipped her in secret, as although she had been a goddess; however, I did not dare to whisper my bold passion to her brother. Although he had so great a friendship for me, yet I was persuaded that my presumption, in aiming so high as his sister, would make me lose it.

For this reason, I concealed my love with the utmost care. I even formed the vigorous resolution to conquer it, and judged a triumph not impossible: for how violently soever I might be inflamed, yet I did not look upon Donna Paula as a finished beauty; and therefore hoped that by leaving her, I should at least break from her chains. Accordingly, having resolved (pursuant to Ovid's advice) to try what absence could do, I desired Pedrilla to let me leave him and return to Madrid; but he would never gratify my request.



ARE you (said he) the kind friend who so often protested that you would spend your whole life with me? Don Cherubim, added Pedrilla, you either are tired of living with me; or I (but unknowingly must have given you some cause of disgust.---Far from it, replies I, my dear Don Manuel, I never in my life was better pleased with you than at this time.-----How then, continued he, can you so much as think of leaving me?---He now was so very urgent with me to reveal my whole soul to him, that he at last extorted the secret.-----This, this, says I to him afterwards, is the reason why I would fly from Alcaraz, and therefore I conjure you to approve of my resolution.

DON Manuel, after listening attentively to me, assumed an air of gloom and dissatisfaction. I now imagined that, notwithstanding our strong friendship, his pride had got the better of it, and that he was shocked at my presumption.----Prompted by this mistaken thought, I added, that it would not be just in him to censure me for disclosing a passion which I should have buried in eternal silence, had he not torn the secret of it from my bosom. But I was very unjust to Don Manuel on this occasion.---Don Cherubim, says he, what would I give that you had but informed me sooner of the passion you entertain for my sister. Alas! it grieves me to the heart to tell you, that I betrothed her a

week since to Ambrosio de Lorca. Why did not you reveal your sentiments to me before? for then you may believe I should have been far from engaging my promise to the gentleman in question, although he perhaps is the richest man in all Madrid.

I was thunderstruck at the words I heard, which awaked the most tender emotions in Don Manuel's bosom. But changing his countenance on a sudden; Dear friend, says he, (with a consolatory air) the evil may yet be remedied. I now call to mind that there is one circumstance in my engagement with de Lorca, that may quite annul it; I offering my sister upon no other condition than that she should freely acquiesce with my promise.——You must therefore now take your measures. Be very assiduous and warm in your addresses to Donna Paula; and I will take care to procure you frequent opportunities of seeing her privately. Make it your utmost endeavours to ingratiate yourself into her esteem; and if you are but successful in this, leave the rest to me.——These words were like the restoring me to new life; and I flattered myself that I perhaps should be so blessed as to marry Donna Paula. I dreaded but one thing, and this was, lest my rival should already have made a conquest of her heart; and it was indeed on this that my fate depended: but very happily, the first conversation I had with her, removed all

all my fears. I even found that she hated Don Ambrosio; which I was so vain as to think a happy omen with regard to my passion.

## CHAP. II.

*Don Cherubim gains his Mistress's Affection. Don Ambrosio de Lorca is very urgent with Don Manuel to give him his Sister in Marriage, but is refused. The Consequence of this Refusal.*

I NDEED I had not flattered myself with false hopes. I so often played the endearing, languishing, dying lover at Donna Paula's feet, that I at last prevailed with her to own that I had stole away her heart; and it must be confessed, that her brother and her aunt were of no little service to my passion, by the amiable light in which they drew me to her, and the many kind things they said of me; so that I was now in the rapturous situation of a lover, who is just upon the point of marrying the fond idol of his soul.

BUT on the other side, my rival, who was as passionately fond as I could possibly be, relying on Pedrilla's promise, was urgent with



him to fulfil it. Don Manuel, says he to him one day, you seem to be no longer desirous of having me for a brother-in-law.--- Be free with me. Can you have changed your mind, and are determined to break your word with me?-----Not in any manner, replied Don Manuel; but recollect that I promised my sister, upon no other condition, than your obtaining her free consent.---You surely must understand my meaning.---I am really sorry to tell you, that your addresses have not made the least impression on her heart.

THINK not to put me off so, interrupted Don Ambrosio, blushing with shame and spite, (he being excessively proud and haughty) I am not to be imposed upon in this manner. I am better informed of things than you imagine.-----To tell you plainly, I know all. You intend to prefer, to a man of my quality, the son of a petty country judge; a creature, whom my servants to punish his audacious insolence, shall cane as he deserves. This creature, (as you call him, says Pedrilla) wears a sword; and know, that those who are enemies to him, are such to me.---If it be so, replies, de Lorca; both meet me to-morrow by sun-rise, at the foot of the mountains of Bogarra; you will there see a man, who is ever prepared to punish those who forfeit their promise with him.

HE

He spoke these words with so menacing a tone, as shewed he would be impatient till the morning was come, and thereupon he withdrew. My friend came and informed me of the discourse he had had with Don Ambrosio; but did not please me very much, when he said that we were to fight a duel. It was to no purpose that he assumed an air of courage, and pretended to laugh at the challenge; for as to myself, I could not but image it to my mind in a most unpleasing light. However, although I shuddered within, yet I (from a punctilio of honour) put on a resolute countenance; and even soon after assumed an air of intrepidity, which I am persuaded my friend thought to be real. But this did not make me more valiant than I really was; and I would very gladly have excused myself.

I will be more ingenuous. — To make up matters, I drew a plan of pacification that very evening, by which I gave up Donna Paula to my rival. However, I afterwards rejected this cowardly thought; figuring to myself the contempt I should bring upon myself, in case I were to discover a dastard heart; and, lastly, that I should not only lose my honour, but also my friend's esteem, and the fond idol of my wishes. These reflections warmed me by insensible degrees; and fired me at last with so much valour, that now I thirsted after nothing so much as to revenge myself of Don Ambrosio.

I ROSE up in this fit of bravery, in order to fly to the place appointed with Don Manuel, who, tho' not inspired by love, was animated with as brave resolutions as myself. Accordingly we mounted our two best horses, and spurred on towards Bogarra, whither Don Ambrosio was arrived with another gentleman. We all four came up together, and having saluted one another, says de Lorca to Don Manuel, Are you still resolved to refuse me your sister; you who had promised her in so solemn a manner?—I still keep my resolution, replied Pedrilla; and your threats instead of diverting me from that design, have only confirmed me the more in it.—Step down, then gentlemen, says he, —I find we must have a trial of skill.

He had no occasion to give us this notice twice, we alighting that instant, which our antagonists did also. We then fastened our horses to some trees that stood in the road, and advanced boldly to one another. Don Ambrosio attacked Don Manuel; whilst I engaged the other gentleman, who was not only a very skilful swords-man, but had the advantage to fight with a man who had never taken up so much as a foil in his life. However, fortune was so unaccountably partial to me, that I gave my hector so home a thrust, as laid him dead at my feet. At the same time that my opponent fell, Don Manuel had the good fortune to dispatch



his; and consequently we remained master of the field of battle.

CHAP. III.

*What Course Don Manuel and Don Cherubim took after this Adventure.*

THE first thing we thought proper to do after this fatal accident was, to secure ourselves by flight. Don Ambrosio was related to the governor of Alcaraz, whom we knew would not fail to set the St. Hermandad after us, the moment he should be informed of the slaughter we had made. Besides, the gentleman whom I had run through the body, was related to a very powerful family. On the other hand, to what part soever of the world we might retire, we should want money for our support.——Having duly weighed these several particulars, we resolved to return to Alcaraz, before the news of Don Ambrosio's death should have reached it, in order to provide ourselves with gold and jewels; to set out with all speed for Barcelona, and there go on board the first ship that should sail for Italy.

WHEN we had formed this resolution, we went home with all possible speed, and took as many pistoles and jewels as we could carry. We bid adieu to Donna Paula and her aunt, after

after agreeing on the methods how to carry on a correspondence. We then set out for Barcelona, attended only by a single servant; but not finding, at our arrival in this city, an opportunity to embark for Italy, we were obliged to wait some days in it.

WORDS could never express the disquietudes I felt during all that time; and a man must have committed the like crime, to conceive the fears which then distracted me. Tho' I had killed my man in what is called a fair and gallant way, yet I dreaded as much the falling into the hands of justice, as if I had assassinated him in the most cowardly manner. I imagined I was eternally pursued by the peace-officers, and that these were just going to seize me. Whenever I observed any person staring me in the face, I immediately took him for a spy who was sent in search of me. In a word, numberless terrors sat brooding over my mind in the day-time, and at night my slumbers were disturbed with the most frightful dreams.

BESIDES the continual fears that preyed upon me, I could not once think of the action I had committed, without feeling the sharpest pangs of remorse. I was now heartily sorry at my having imbrued my hands in the blood of my fellow-creature, instead of following the plan of pacification I had formed the evening before the fatal day. My affliction seemed the greater, as my passion for Donna  
Paula

Paula was considerably diminished. This must be ascribed to the dreadful situation I was then in; Cupid delighting to reign singly in a heart; and not willingly permitting any disquietudes and alarms, but those he himself raises in the breasts of lovers.

WHILST Don Manuel and I were thus tortured with all the anxiety which is inseparable from a man, who is pursued by the officers of justice; it was encreased one evening by Mileno our footman, who told us, that as he was standing at the door of an inn which he named, some men who had a very suspicious aspect, alighted at it; and that he fancied he knew one of them to be an Alguasil of Alcaraz. — However, says our servant, I may be mistaken; and therefore will walk accidentally as it were into that inn, to see how matters stand.

BEING firmly persuaded of our servant's fidelity, and knowing him to be a subtle fellow, we let him go. About two hours after he returned, and said, My dear masters, my suspicions were but too just. You are actually pursued by an Alguasil and some sheriff's officers; and as they are searching every inn in town, they will consequently be here ere it is long. Therefore you have not a moment to lose, if you hope to escape. Fly instantly to some monastery; and be assured you can have no other asylum.

WE



WE both thought that Mileno spoke very right. Accordingly we fled to the convent of bare-footed Carmelites, the superior whereof received us with open arms, when he heard that we were gentlemen who had been engaged in an affair of honour, and should therefore be obliged to hide ourselves. It is true indeed, that to excite his hospitality the more, we had let drop several words during the conversation, by which he found that we were in a condition to make him very ample amends.

THE first thing he desired to know was, how he came to be reduced to the necessity of seeking a sanctuary. We did not conceal one circumstance from him, and after we had told him all, he spoke as follows:—Your unhappy affair is far from being desperate, since the gentlemen you killed brought this misfortune upon themselves. Lay therefore aside all thoughts of sailing for Italy. You have no need to fly thither to secure yourselves; do but stay in our monastery, and you will be sufficiently protected. I even hope by the interest of some very good friends, to make up all your matters.

WE thanked Father Theodore, the superior, for the testimony he gave us of his friendship, which indeed was extremely seasonable. This superior directed the consciences of the chief persons in the city; and among others that of Don Guttiero de Terrassa, the governor,

by

by whom he was greatly esteemed. Father Theodore's name was prodigiously revered in Barcelona, he being not only a good moral man, but a perfect saint. This Carmelite was at the same time a person of genius; and what was most remarkable, he had a great fund of humour, all which he had the happy art of reconciling with a most austere and mortified life. He used to spend three fourths of the night in prayer and meditation; passed the morning in exhorting to repentance such sinners as stood in need of it; and the afternoons he always spent with persons of a polite education; on which occasions he would converse on the most agreeable topics, and that with the utmost wit and sprightliness.

SUCH was Father Theodore, who ordered us two cells, wherein were two couches, made of straw, with a very thin quilt over each; and which, although so exceedingly hard, were yet like down-beds, if compared to those of the friars of this convent.---Gentlemen, said this holy superior to us, you must not expect to meet in this sanctuary, with the many conveniencies you enjoy in the commerce of the world. Besides your lying after a very poor manner, you will have no other fare but our pittance, which you will find just sufficient to keep life and soul together. But, added he, with a smile, I presume you will chearfully submit to so slight a mortification, to appease heaven, whom you certainly must have offended.

R

fended. ——— We complied readily with the penance enjoined us; and may affirm that, in a few days, we were as well accustomed to our hard beds, and the slender repasts of the monks, as if we had never laid softer, nor been fed more plentifully.

#### CHAP. IV.

*The Turn which Don Cherubim and Don Manuel's Affair took, by the Interposition of Father Theodore. The sudden Resolution taken by Don Cherubim, and the Manner in which he put it in Execution.*

**F**ATHER Theodore was not negligent in our affair. To make it up he had recourse to the governor of the principality of Barcelona. This penitent finding his ghostly father interest himself so warmly in it, did all that lay in his power to end it in an amicable way. Accordingly he wrote, in the strongest terms, to Don Ambrosio de Lorca's relations; and particularly to the governor of Alcaraz, whose intimate friend, very fortunately for us, he happened to be.

As



As Don Ambrosio had been the aggressor, his relations were not so much exasperated against us as they would have been, had justice been on his side. Therefore they were easily prevailed upon to sacrifice their resentment to Don Guttiero, and to the steps which Don Manuel's family took to appease it. Accordingly they desisted from the prosecution, and the whole affair was made up in six months. The reader will naturally suppose, that after this my friend and I returned with joy to Alcaraz, there to marry the dear objects of our affections; but it fell out quite otherwise, I continuing in Barcelona, and taking the following course.

WHILST endeavours were using to adjust our affair, I had frequent conversations with Father Theodore; and the more I talked with him, the greater pleasure he afforded me. He always wore such an air of satisfaction as raised my admiration, and this I often told him.—The superior replied on these occasions, that if I was desirous of appearing ever with the same chearfulness, I need only spend my days in their monastery.----Survey attentively, says he, one day to me, our friars; and you will read in their faces, the calm and unruffled state of their souls. Your thoughts, added he, are so much taken up with your own affairs, that you have not yet taken notice of this, although it really deserves your attention.

ACCORDINGLY I observed their aspects and was greatly edified. I was very much surprized to find a community of men so well satisfied with this austere course of life, and therefore was very desirous of conversing with them. I now enquired, whether they really enjoyed such a frame of mind as was never disturbed by any accident, and found that their conversation answered the serenity of their countenances, and therefore had reason to believe that they were as contented internally as they appeared to be. This suggested several very disagreeable reflections——Strange! says I to myself;——Are there then men in the world so far disengaged from its enjoyments and delights, as to prefer to them the solitude of a cloystered life! How justly may their felicity be envied!

AMONG these venerable monks there was one who was greatly distinguished by an equally singular and useful talent. He seemed to have no other employment; and this was to confess the sick, and exhort them to leave this fleeting scene of things in a truly christian manner. He was so renowned for this talent in that neighbourhood, that he used to be sent for all hours both of day and night. Hearing that this father was so wonderful a man in his way, I was desirous of accompanying him one night in this mournful office. The business was, to prevail if possible with an old gentleman of Catalonia, who had

had spent forty years among the Banditti, to make his confession. Two priests had already attempted it to no purpose; they not being able to withstand the volleys of oaths he threw out, the moment they came into his bed-chamber.

My friend the Carmelite did not meet, at first, with a more favourable reception from this hardened sinner. -- Be gone, fly, cries he, O monk; thy countenance and habit are odious to me! These words were followed by a volley of oaths, which he uttered in the most dreadful rage. -- The friar instead of being terrified, made him the mildest answers; and armed himself with such a patience, as greatly astonished the sick man. -- Father, says he to him, what is your business here? Leave the room, I beseech you, my sins are of so black a dye, that your good offices can never avail; and my crimes are so great and numerous, that it will be impossible for me to escape the divine justice.

HEREUPON, Father Seraphim (for this was the Carmelite's name) lifted up his hands, and addressed himself to heaven in such a tone of voice as moved all the spectators: Great God (says he) thou Father of mercies! behold here one of thy creatures, ready to plunge into the deepest despair. Graciously suffer me to be instrumental in preserving him from so dreadful a state. Look down upon him with an eye of compassion. May thy lov-



ing kindness, O Lord, shield him from thy justice.—— The sick man was frightened at this speech; and thereupon asked the friar, whether after having led so wicked a life, he had reason to entertain the least hopes of salvation.

THE holy Carmelite hearing these words, drew near, in a transport of zeal, to the gentleman; when turning to God's mercy, he expatiated upon it in so consolatory and pathetic a manner, that his auditors could not forbear weeping. To give the greater force and energy to his exhortations, he himself shed tears, with which the father bathed the cheeks of the sick man, taking him every moment into his arms. His manner, on this occasion, was as edifying as the divine office; and indeed it made so strong an impression on the expiring sinner, that he began to reflect seriously on his past life; to repent of his crimes; and soon after he died a perfect convert, at least in outward appearance.

FROM this time I beheld Father Seraphim, with eyes of admiration; and endeavoured to gain his friendship, which he could not refuse, as he found that my frame of mind was such at that time as seemed to promise the future devotee; and indeed I grew daily more fond of a monastic life. The discourses I sometimes had with this father, and at others with the superior, inspiring me by insensible degrees with an inclination to spend the

the remainder of my days in their convent; that at last I was determined to assume a religious habit. I revealed this laudable design to Father Theodore, who opposed it; not so much to divert me from such a resolution, as to try my constancy.——Dear Don Cherubim, says he to me; you very probably will be in another mind, when you shall have made up your affairs.——I certainly shall not, replies I, venerable father; I am firmly determined to turn friar, and to live and die in this sacred asylum.

WHILST I was in this disposition, we got clear of the prosecution.——And now the superior, after informing me of this agreeable news, spoke as follows with a smile; Well, son; which now will you make choice of, the commerce of the world, or this deep solitude, the pleasures which affluence gives, or our voluntary poverty? It is now left to your own option, either to return to Alcaraz, there to marry a beauty you idolized so much, or to stay with us. Have you so great an ascendant over your passions, as to prefer the unpleasing toils of penance and mortification to the pleasures that await you? Weigh well these things in your own mind, before you fix your last resolution.

I ANSWERED Father Theodore, that I had already made all the reflexions necessary, and therefore should think the time long till I had put on a religious habit. At the same time  
I told

I told him, that I would make over to him all my possessions, as a donation to his community. The father made at first some difficulty to consent to this, lest (as he observed) he should be reproached with having seduced me. I combated his scruples, which, for a long time opposed my pious intention: nevertheless, as he was desirous that the will of heaven should be done in all things, I at last was so happy as to triumph over his reluctance.

I HAD not yet so much as hinted my design to Don Manuel, who was very far from guessing it. He could indeed not but perceive that I grew more and more a devotee; but it could never enter his head, that I should be so complete a one, as to put on a monkish habit. Fancying that the charms of his sister still captivated my heart as strongly as those of Donna Clara did his, he was not a little surprized when I informed him, after our prosecution was laid aside, of the change that was wrought in me; and the resolution I had made, to enter into the order of bare-footed Carmelites.

I HAD flattered myself, says he, that we should both return to Alcaraz, and that you would form my sister's felicity by making her your wife; that we should be there as one family; in fine, that nothing but death should part us. — I indeed, replies I, made you that promise at our first taking sanctuary in this convent.



vent. I formed to myself a delightful idea of spending my days with you and Donna Paula; but God has ordered it otherwise; he has persons to speak to me in the voice wherein he addresses those whom he is willing to disengage from the vain pleasures of this world. I no longer am delighted with the idea of those which the most joyful Hymen can suggest; or rather, it is a pleasure to me to sacrifice them all; and I shall think myself thrice happy, if this sacrifice will but atone for the many sins of my past life.

THESE words only increased Don Manuel's surprize. — If we were not, says he, forbid to murmur against providence, I should exclaim against it for bereaving me of my most sincere, and most valuable friend. — Instead, replies I, of venting complaints against God, you ought rather to dread, lest he should impute it to you, as one of your greatest crimes, the not following, as I have done, the good example which the religious of this monastery set us. However, dear Don Manuel, it is not yet too late to do this. Make over your estate to your sister, and bravely renounce Donna Clara. Love, though so strong a passion, is yet not invincible; and the remembrance of a beloved mistress, will soon be blotted out by the aid which grace will indulge you. — My worthy friend, added I, make one brave effort, and disengage yourself from those ties which bind you to the flesh. Stay in

in this convent; and partake with me, those delights which are found only in this kind of retirement. What a satisfaction would it be to me, could I prevail with you to form such a resolution! You have no reason, says Don Manuel, to entertain any such hopes. I admire you, (dearest of friends!) but it is not in my power to imitate you. — We are not all born for a cloystered life. It is fitting for the glory of the christian religion, that there should be some persons so much disengaged from the world as these, and who lead a life of the greatest austerity; but men may be saved in every condition of life. — Do you, therefore, spend your days in this holy solitude, since heaven calls you to it. But it has different views with regard to me; it commands me to return to Alcaraz, and to keep the promise I made Donna Clara.

SUCH was the last conversation I had in Barcelona with my friend, and it ended with the warmest demonstrations of friendship. Farewell, says he, with an air of the utmost tenderness; may you ever continue in the same religious fervour. — I was less affected than Don Manuel with our separation, and soon began to forget him, when he was out of my sight; which circumstance persuaded me, that I should ere long divest myself of all terrestrial affections; and so acquire, in process of time, that holy inflexibility, whereby

whereby monks are rendered insensible to all the ties of blood and friendship.

---

CHAP. V.

*In what Manner the Fervour of Don Cherubim cooled, after he had spent six Months in his Novitiate. Of his leaving the Convent, and the new Course of Life he took.*

**I** WORE the habit, as a novice, during six months, discharging the several duties of my vocation with ardour; firmly persuaded that I should end my days in this monastery. Unhappily for me, Father Theodore was obliged to leave Barcelona, and go to Madrid, to be superior in the great convent of bare-footed Carmelites. To add to my misfortunes, I also lost Father Seraphim, who died of a pleurisy which he had got by too earnestly exhorting a sick Alguasil to die in a christian manner.

I was greatly afflicted at the loss of my good friars. Deprived of these two monks, who led me securely through the paths which go to salvation, I now was left entirely to myself. It was not long before I fell a prey to those violent passions from which I had thought myself exempt; and these so strongly opposed



posed my vocation, that at last it could not resist their impetuosity. However, I made very violent struggles, before I would yield. I fought for supports against my weakness; and, imagining I should meet with many in the conversation of two or three novices whom I thought were informed with a true spirit of piety, I spoke thus to one of them. ---Dear brother; what a happiness is it for you to have thus abandoned and forgot all terrestrial things, and to run the race which is set you with so much alacrity! Why am I not able to do the like.

THE novice answered; were it possible for you to see into my heart, you would be far from envying me. Know that I was imprisoned in this religious house by my family, and so am forced to make a virtue of necessity; judge from thence, whether I can be so well satisfied with my state of life as you imagine. Another novice told me, that having formed a resolution to assume a religious habit, upon his losing a woman whom he doted upon; he found that he was really consoled for the loss of her, but nevertheless that, at certain intervals, he was heartily sorry he had not employed any other method to blot her from his memory. I am of opinion that had I questioned all the novices, I should have found many, equally unsatisfied with their condition.

Be this as it will, I grew tired of a conventual life; when throwing off the monastic, and putting on a lay-habit, I left the monastery as if it had been a prison; overjoyed to see myself at liberty, though almost without a cross to bless myself; for I had made over my whole fortune to those pious monks, and consequently could have little hopes that any part of it would be returned to me. This perplexed me so much, that I did not know what course to take. I could not prevail with myself to return to Alcaraz, not knowing what reception I should meet with from Donna Paula. I therefore chose to deny myself the pleasure of seeing her, rather than run the hazard of meeting with her frowns; not to mention that I was not very sure that Don Manuel, as he now was married, would be my friend as formerly.

WHILST I was thus distracted with uncertainty, Carambola the licentiate, whom I never expected to set my eyes upon more, came tripping to me on a sudden. We were equally surprized to meet with each other in the capital of Catalonia. — How! says I, my lilliputian! (embracing him in the most friendly manner) You in the capital of Catalonia! — You also are there, replied he: What in the name of wonder can have brought you hither? — A folly, says I; and at the same time I informed him of my last ridiculous exploit. — After hearing

S

me

me out, he told me, that I was extremely easy in parting with my money, and that I should not have given it up, but upon condition of having it returned to me in case I did not complete my noviciate. — The error, interrupted I, (dear friend) is committed; and therefore let us talk no more about it. One most comfortable circumstance is, the venerable fathers, at my parting with them, assured me that I should not be forgot in the prayers which they offer up to heaven, in favour of the benefactors of their monastery.

To oblige the licentiate to relate to me, in his turn, whatever had befallen him since our separation, I spoke as follows. — Why did you leave Madrid, and the little bastard who was under your tuition? Did the counsellor of the council of the Indies (his reputed father) dismiss you merely out of caprice? — No, no, replies Carambola, I left him from a rational motive, which was as follows.

MR. Licentiate, says this magistrate one day, it is always my custom to have some person read to me when I am in bed, till such time as I fall into a doze; otherwise I can never close my eyes. The fellow whom I employ on these occasions, happens to be taken ill; and I therefore desire you, Mr. Licentiate, to supply his place till he is recovered. — With all my heart, replies I; little suspecting the drudgery I was to undergo; and accordingly that very evening, the moment my lord was

got



got into bed, I went to my post, having a little table before me, whereon was a musty Spanish book, called, by way of eminence, his Lordship's Soporific; as also a very thin slice of ham, two or three bits of bread, a glass, and a bottle of wine, for the refreshment of the person who read to his lordship.

I took up the book, and had scarce drauled through a few pages, but my counsellor fell a snoring. When I thought him fast, I laid down my book softly, in order to take a little breath, or, rather to toss down a bumper; but unluckily he broke from his slumbers that instant; upon which I snatched up the book and fell a reading again, when, O wonder of wonders! ten lines of this enchanting author, plunged the magistrate into a deep sleep. Perceiving this, I instantly seized the bottle with one hand, and the glass with the other, and swallowed a hearty draught of Navarre wine. Afterwards I was going to whip down a bit of ham, imagining that the judge would allow me time for this; but I was quite mistaken, for he started up so suddenly that I almost choked myself, though I hardly got a mouthful.

I FELL again to my book, and gave him a third soporific: when, to give it all the strenght possible, I read three tedious pages, which I once thought I should never get through. After making him swallow so strong a dose of opium, I concluded that my counsellor would hardly

hardly wake for some hours.—But alas! the wretch roused on a sudden, when seeing I had the glass at my mouth, he cried in an angry tone; What the plague, Mr. Licentiate, is all this! you do nothing but tiddle.----And you, sir, replies I, do nothing but sleep and wake, and wake and sleep. Provide yourself, if you please, with another reader, to-morrow; for be assured that I would not wear out my lungs in this stupid manner, though you should double my salary.----But this (Mr. Licentiate, answers my gentleman) you must do, if you intend to educate my son any longer.----Finding him threaten me in this manner, I made him a very pert answer (you know the vivacity and fire of us Biscayans); upon which we quarrelled, and I left his house the next morning.

SOME days after, continued the licentiate, a friend of mine offered to get me a tutor's place, at a gentleman's who was a Catalan. I liked the proposal, upon which he carried me to the Catalan, who hired me; and carried me from Madrid to Barcelona, where I have lived these six months.—Are you, says I, well pleased with your employment?----Extremely so, replied he; my pupil's parents are a very good sort of people, so that in all probability I shall spend many years with them. The child, who is but just turned of eight, is idolized by his father and mother; and indeed, so great is their fondness that they quite  
spoil

spoil him. Let him play ever so many roguish pranks, they forgive them all, and only smile on those occasions. I am absolutely forbid, not only to chastize, but even so much as to rebuke him, lest the putting my little master out of humour, should throw him into a fit of sickness. Accordingly, so far from punishing him whenever he has committed a fault, I only laugh, and say; O brave, you are a most charming little gentleman. In short, I incense the idol, and find my account in it: for by this means I have won the affection both of my pupil and his parents, who certainly have the highest regard for me.

I CONGRATULATED Carambola on the happiness he enjoyed; after which, embracing each other with great demonstrations of kindness, we separated, but with a promise to meet together again soon. When I had left him, I fell again into a deep meditation.----What course (says I) can I take, to extricate myself from the indigent condition to which I am reduced? Had I but my Bachelor's gown, I would turn tutor again.-----Still, cannot I exercise pretty nearly the same employment in the habit I now wear? I certainly may. I have nothing to do but to seek out for some noble family, where a governor is wanted, to bring up a young gentleman, who is designed for high employments in the state. I am as well qualified for such a place as for that of a tutor.



I HERE fixed my resolution, and flattered myself with the hopes of being soon settled to my satisfaction. Nevertheless heaven having other designs in view with regard to me ordered things in a quite different manner; and wrought a sudden change in my fortune by an incident I could never have dreamt of; and which was preceded by a dream of too singular a nature for me not to acquaint the reader with.

---

## CHAP. VI.

*Don Cherubim's Dream, and the sudden Change that was wrought in his Circumstances.*

I DREAMT that I was in the city of Mexico, in a magnificent apartment, where I saw Don Cæsar, my brother, sitting in an easy chair; and dictating his will to a scrivener. Near him stood a strong box, out of which taking several bags filled with Spanish pistoles and other gold coins, he held them up to me and said: See here (dear brother Cherubim) the fruits of my voyage to the West-Indies, and the pains I there took to amass riches. I feel my dissolution approaching, and therefore bequeath whatever is here to you: He then

then made me count the eye-delighting pieces before him, the handling of which was so pleasing, that I broke from my slumbers in an ecstacy of joy, fancying I grasped a large handful.

THIS dream imprinted itself so strongly on my imagination, that I was quite struck with it at my awaking. Instead of considering it as a wild chimæra, I fancied it to be a secret information, given me by my good genius, of some felicity that awaited me. This, says I, may certainly be the case: after the many stories of this kind that have been told me, I cannot but think that there are such things as dreams, under which some mystery is couched; and if so, mine must certainly be one. Perhaps my brother is dead, and has bequeathed me some effects. This idea especially made so strong an impression on me, that had I been flush of money, I believe I should have been fool enough to go forthwith to Mexico, in order to enquire after his effects. In short, being confident that truth was shadowed under this dream, I rose up full of joy: and in a firm persuasion that my circumstances would soon be agreeably changed, I took a walk into the city.

As I was crossing the market called Nuestra Señora del Mar, I spied, at the door of the church called by that name, several persons who were gazing at a paper which had just before been posted on it. Being very desirous  
of

of reading it also, I forced through the crowd and was not a little surprized to read the following words: "This is to give notice, that Don Caesar de la Ronda, who came lately from the West-Indies with money and effects to Seville, died there two days after his arrival. Those therefore who have any claim to his estate, are desired to come to the above-mentioned city, where, upon making out their right and title, the money and effects of the aforesaid Caesar de la Ronda shall be delivered to them, pursuant to the inventory that has been taken of them, by order of the lords commissioners of trade, &c."

I READ this paper four times, scarce daring to trust my eyes: however, being at last persuaded of the reality of my good fortune, I went to church in order to return God thanks for it. Don Caesar was not forgot in the hearty prayers I offered up to heaven. I shed tears for his death, but in such a manner, that it would have been no easy matter to distinguish, whether they were the effect of sorrow or joy. I here might, if I pleased (to set off the excellent tenderness of my disposition) declare, that I felt no other sensation than that of grief for my brother's death; but besides that my sincerity might then be called in question, I hate a lie; and will be so candid as to own, that I bewailed Don Caesar's death, as a younger brother does an elder one, who dies and leaves him a good estate.



THE only grievous circumstance was, my wanting some money, to enable me to go and take possession of the riches which heaven had sent me so very seasonably, having not so much as a Maravedie in the world. I had left the monastery with empty pockets; and as I did not know where to raise a crown, consequently I made a very silly figure, although I was to inherit a vast sum of money. However, I cast about so long, that at last I fancied I had hit upon a sure way of supplying myself, in such a manner, as would more than defray the expences of my voyage to Seville. The Carmelites, says I, will be proud to lend me fifty pistoles. Those holy friars will gladly snatch the opportunity they have now, of obliging a man who has been so great a benefactor to them.

BIG with these hopes, I addressed the superior, who had succeeded Father Theodore. I told him how matters stood with me, and therefore begged him to lend me fifty pistoles; promising to repay him with large interest, the instant I should have received the monies which my brother had bequeathed me. But the holy friar, after listening to me very attentively, told me with an air of unconcern, that he could not oblige me in what I asked, till a chapter should be held for that purpose; saying which, he put me off a fortnight longer, that is, till latter Lammas.

BEING

Being little satisfied (as the reader may believe) with monastic gratitude, I returned very penſive to the inn where I lodged. My landlord, whoſe name was Geronimo Moreno, ſeeing me melancholy, asked in the moſt affectionate manner, what it was that occaſioned it. I did not ſcruple to inform him of all that had paſſed; which was more than enough to rouse up all his indignation againſt the monks; whom he never failed to ſatirize whenever they were mentioned, of what order ſoever they might be. If we except this odd quality, he was a worthy, candid, obliging, generous man. — Don Cherubim, ſays he to me, be not dejected at the ingratitude you have met with from thoſe rascally friars, for although they have uſed, yet you ſhall not be without ſo much money, as is neceſſary for defraying the expences of your voyage to Seville. Heavens be praized, Geronimo Moreno is not in ſuch bad circumſtances, but that he is always able to aſſiſt an honeſt man with money. If you want only fifty piſtoles to carry you to Seville, I have them at your ſervice. You appear to me ſo very honeſt a gentleman, that I would not ſcruple to lend you all I am worth in the world, upon your bare promiſe to repay me.

OVERJOYED at what I heard, I thanked my landlord, and took him at his word, upon which he counted down fifty piſtoles. Then I gave him my note for the money; and

and two days after went on board a Genoese vessel that was bound for Seville. There were several passengers besides myself; and, among others, an old merchant of Tortosa, who was going to Andalusia about some affairs relating to his traffic. I contracted an intimacy with this Catalan; and the great similitude of our tempers gave rise to a friendship which became so strong, that at our arrival in Seville, he begged we might never part; saying at the same time, that he knew a very good inn, where he was certain we should meet with the handsomest usage. I agreed to his proposal; upon which we went and took up our quarters in Lonxa-street, at the sign of the parrot.

THE inn-keeper, his wife and daughter seemed so delighted at seeing the Tortosa merchant, that I naturally supposed they had been long acquainted.—I recommend (says the merchant) this gentleman to you, and desire he may be treated as though he were a second self.——As this gentleman, replied the inn-keeper with the utmost civility, is your friend, be assured we will do every thing in our power to give him satisfaction.

The landlady, who might be about forty, and who did not belie the reputation the women of Seville have, of being great flatterers and coquets, could not forbear adding to what her husband had said, that as I was so fine a gentleman,



gentleman, I might be assured that the highest regard would be paid me.

SUPPER time being come, the landlord, whose name was Gaspar, desired to know whether we would eat in private—No, no, replied the old Catalan; we love company, and will therefore board with you and your amiable family. Accordingly we sat down at table with our landlord, his wife and young Narcissa their daughter, whose sprightly bloom of youth, was heightened by a regularity of features, a smiling air, and a sparkling pair of eyes, which invited every one to gaze at them. They charmed me to such a degree, that I could not forbear ogling her almost all the time we were at supper. With regard to the fair one, she was not sparing of her glances to me; and some of them were directed in such a manner, as awaked a great many reflections in me. Methought I discovered something like an endeavour to please me; and it had the desired effect, for immediately I was confused; my breast heaved with the most tender impulses; and my heart, which my abode in the monastery had only rendered more combustible, was enflamed on a sudden for the lovely Narcissa.

THE merchant of Tortosa, who very probably took notice of this, and was desirous of aiding my infant passion, by making me pass for a rich gentleman, mentioned the affair which had brought me to Seville. This charmed

charmed the father and mother, and multiplied the kind glances which the daughter had favoured me with. And now Signior Gaspar offered me his service, saying, that he would take me next morning to a lawyer of his acquaintance, whose chief business was to get justice done to such strangers as came to Seville on affairs relating to trade. The gentleman in question, continued he, will tell you how to act, to prevent your being tricked by the officers through whose hands you will be obliged to pass; or rather, if you judge proper, he will undertake your whole business and be satisfied with a trifle for his trouble, for I never in my life knew a more disinterested man.

THE old merchant advised me by all means to accept of the landlord's offer, which I did at once. And it being now pretty late, the Catalan and I withdrew to the bed-chambers, prepared for us, which were extremely handsome considering the place we were in. I went to bed, and immediately began to reflect on the charms of Narcissa, preferable to the splendid fortune I was going to inherit; but the image of Gaspar's daughter yielding afterwards to that of riches, I fell asleep and was blessed with a golden dream.

THE next day my landlord, to shew that he was a man of his word, conducted me to the lawyer in question, and presenting me to him; Signior Don Matteo, says he, this

T

gentle-

gentleman lodges at my house. He is little acquainted with business, and therefore is desirous of your assistance.—The lawyer then asked me, with an air of gravity, what the affair was which had brought me to Seville. I acquainted him with the whole, upon which he said to me: The first thing to be done is, you must procure a certificate from the parish-priest of the place where you was born, in order to prove that you are truly the brother of Don Caesar de la Ronda, who died lately in Seville. Lose no time therefore, but set out immediately for Salamanca and get the certificate in question; then bring it to me; and be assured that all your brother's effects shall be put into your hands, in spite of the chicanery of those persons whose interest it is to retard the delivery of them.

I WAS so impatient to procure the several instruments, which might entitle me to force out of the clutches of the officers of Seville the various effects I had inherited; that I delayed my departure no longer than was absolutely necessary. In short, I made so much dispatch, that in a fortnight I returned with a certificate from our parish-priest, and another signed by the corregidor and all the magistrates of Salamanca; so that, the persons in whose hand my effects were lodged, could not deny but that I was my father's son, and consequently that I was brother to Don Caesar. Accordingly, when Don Matteo had examined



ed the several pieces I had brought, he cried, in an enthusiastic tone; my dear Don Cherubim we are all right! — He then added, during your absence I waited on the lords commissioners of trade, who told me that your brother had made a will, constituting you his sole heir; therefore I will put you in possession of your whole fortune very soon, or may I never concern myself in any cause, how promising soever it may appear.

As this lawyer seemed a person of great integrity and abilities, I reposed an entire confidence in him, and had no reason to repent it. In less than three weeks, he procured me all Don Cæsar's effects, which consisted in bars of silver, Spanish pistoles, and saleable commodities. To give a true relation of this affair, it cost me a very considerable sum, before I could force those things from the greedy wretches in whose hands they had been deposited; and was carried through such a round of formalities, that I may affirm the lords commissioners and their subalterns were, at last, co-heirs with me. However, notwithstanding the money which these hornets plundered me of, yet, after my lawyer had been handsomely rewarded; after paying a numberless multitude of duties; all things deducted and duly adjusted, I found myself worth fourscore thousand crowns.

How blest a mortal was I now! the first use I made of so noble a fortune was, to

give public testimonies of my gratitude to the memory of my dear brother; and accordingly, I gave orders for celebrating mass in all the churches of Seville, for the repose of his soul. I was very liberal to the clergy both secular and regular, that they might offer up their prayers to heaven for him: In a word, such was my conduct, that I shewed the world Don Cæsar de la Ronda had not made choice of an ungrateful brother for his heir. After thus discharging the several duties I owed to his manes, I turned my thoughts to my own affairs. I then sold off all my commodities; and, by the advice of the Tortosa merchant, lodged all the monies they produced with Signior Abel Hazendado, who was reputed the honestest and most substantial banker in all Seville.

WHILST I was thus employed in settling things, Signior Gaspar, at whose inn the Catalan and I quartered, paid me the highest civilities, as did his wife; and the engaging Narcissa was as liberal as ever of the kindest glances. The merchant, on the other side, was eternally speaking about this girl to me; he bestowing the highest encomiums on her wit, her good nature, and particularly her virtue. I saw through his design. This old fellow was as desirous as my landlord and landlady could be, that I should fall in love with, and marry the fair one in question, whose godfather he was, and perhaps something

thing nearer a-kin. By this time I was half prompted to marry her; and I believe I should have been so silly as to nooze myself, had I not been fortunately prevented by a story that was told me, the particulars whereof will be read in the following chapter.

## CHAPTER VII.

*The story heard by Don Cherubim, which prevents his marrying Signior Gaspar's Daughter; and obliges him to leave Seville, as precipitately as if he had committed some Crime.*

IT is certain that I loved Narcissa to distraction; and imagining I was the sole object of her affections, was going to ask her of her father in marriage, when chance threw me into the way of Mileno, whom I supposed to be still servant to Don Manuel. — Are you there, says I, dear Mileno? does Pedrilla your master live in Seville? I have left him some time, replied Mileno. We parted upon a quarrel I had with his cook, on account of Donna Paula's chamber-maid. The cook and I were equally limt with that pretty little creature; when being jealous of each other, we fought a duel, on which occasion I wounded



wounded my rival and fled for it. Afterwards came to this city, where I have the honour to serve a young canon, who has the talent of reconciling the serious duties of his profession, with the pleasures of keeping a mistress. This pious master of mine, by my happy assistance and that of an officious old woman, is engaged in a secret intrigue with an inn-keeper's daughter.

I SHUDDERED at these last words; and asked Mileno, in a faltering tone of voice, if he knew the inn-keeper's name. It is one Signior Gaspar, replies he, and his daughter is called Narcissa. I suppose, added he, you know this girl, since you blush so much at hearing her name mentioned; have not you a sneaking kindness for that pretty lass?—A greater kindness (replies I) my lad, than you can imagine. I really dote so much on that faithless chit, that I was going to marry her. But although this news is death to me, yet I am overjoyed at your informing me of it; and be assured that I will make a proper use of the hint.

Had I known, says Mileno, that you intended to marry Narcissa, I would never have disclosed to you her fondness for the licentiate, Don Blas Mugerillo my master. We ought not to injure any person; and I should be extremely sorry, should what I have now told you, prevent your marrying a charming creature, to whom nothing can be objected but

but a small intrigue or so. — I beseech you, Signior Mileno, says I, cease your impertinent banter, and mind your virtuous master's business. — But come tell me something of Don Manuel: Is he married to Donna Clara? Far from it, says he: at his return from Barcelona to Alcaraz, he heard that she was retired to a monastery, and had taken the veil; so that in all probability he has lost her for ever. — Alas! says I, what is become of Donna Paula? Become of her, replies he; poor gentlewoman! Your flight made so deep an impression on her mind, that she hath taken an utter aversion to marriage, upon the supposition that it will be impossible for her ever to be your wife. But did she know that you still love her, I am sure she would fly with transport to your arms.

I would fain have had a longer conference with the very sagacious Mileno, but could not prevail with him to stay any longer. He left me very abruptly, saying Don Cherubim, your most humble servant. — Excuse my leaving you, but I really am in such haste that I cannot possibly help it. Don Blas Mugerillo gives a supper this evening to five or six of his brethren; and I am going immediately to the most famous cook in all our city, to order an entertainment proportioned to their sensuality.

MILENO was no sooner gone, but I formed a variety of reflections. Egad says I to

I to myself) some faces are most confound-  
edly deceitful! who would not have thought,  
(as I did) but that Narcissa was as chaste as  
Lucretia? It must be confessed that my brow  
has narrowly escaped a pair of antlers. And  
now, returning to Don Manuel, and pitying  
him for losing so valuable a woman as Donna  
Clara, I shared his affliction. Was I, says  
I, but in Alcaraz, I could be of great service  
to him. But why should I not go thither?  
All things invite me to it, as well for my con-  
soling the best of friends, as for my own peace  
sake. Although Narcissa is so unworthy of  
my love, I am still captivated by her beau-  
ties, and therefore, to disengage myself from  
them, must get a sight of those of Donna  
Paula. To conclude, all my reflections  
conspired to make me leave Seville, and haste  
to Alcaraz. Accordingly I left the former  
privately, but, at my setting out, I sent a let-  
ter to Signior Gaspar's virtuous daughter, to  
inform her, that being obliged to leave her  
some time, I had desired a young Canon of  
the cathedral to comfort her during my ab-  
sence.

I cannot possibly help it. Don Blas Mus-  
gives a supper this evening to five or six of  
his picture; and I am going immediately  
to the most famous cook in all our city, to  
entertainment proportioned to their  
quantity. I have blundered, very blundered.  
MILLEN O was no longer gone, but I  
formed a variety of reflections. I said, says  
I to



## C H A P. VIII.

*Don Cherubim arrives in Alcaraz. The Condition in which he finds Don Manuel and his Sister, and the Reception he meets with from them.*

AFTER meeting with the worst accommodations possible, with regard to provisions, beds, &c. on the road; and being greatly fatigued with a six days journey, at last I reached Alcaraz, and went immediately to Pedrilla's, who seeing me alight, imagined it was my ghost. However, he ran out, when clasping me in his arms; surely, says he, this must be a dream! and I cannot be now embracing my dear Don Cherubim de la Ronda.

YES, replied I, my best of friends, it is Don Cherubim himself. It is I whom you left in Barcelona, under a habit which my too feeble virtue could not enable me to spend my life in; I then informed him, how my religious fervour had cooled to such a degree, that I could not prevail with myself to complete my noviciate.——Well, says he, the friars, no doubt were so just as to return you part of your benefaction.——Not a cross, replies I; but this I could have forgiven, had they not refused to lend me fifty pistoles,

pistoles, which I wanted prodigiously a little after I left them. — Don Manuel, at these words, showed such an air of indignation against the friars, as was equally expressive with the most violent reproaches he could have vented against them. Give me leave, says Don Manuel a little after, to chide you, for not acquainting me with the exigency you was in. Do not you know that among us Spaniards, it is an affront to a gentleman for his friend not to address him, whenever he wants the assistance either of his purse or sword.

To atone, says Don Manuel, for this unfriendly omission with regard to me, you shall pass the remainder of your days at my house, and share my fortune. The only return I shall ever require is, for you to be firmly persuaded that my friendship will be unalterable notwithstanding the infelicity of your circumstances. Nay further; you know that I promis'd you my sister in marriage, and I here renew it. Donna Paula loves you as tenderly as she did before you left Barcelona; for do not fancy that your abandoning her in the odd manner you did, could banish you from her heart. No; though she bewail'd your inconstancy, with floods of tears, she yet did not once reproach you for it.

THESE words of Pedrilla melted my soul, when embracing him in the tenderest manner: Dear, dear Don Manuel, says I, how

blest  
 I am to call you my brother, and how  
 I am to call you my brother, and how

blessed am I in possessing so true a friend; and how pleased am I to hear that I may full hope to enjoy Donna Paula! I feel the greater satisfaction, because I am not in such indigent circumstances as you imagine; having fourscore thousand crowns to offer the dear creature, together with my heart ——— Is it possible, says he, that fortune should have showered thus plentifully her bounties on you, in so short a time.

II. THEN acquainted my friend with the sums I had inherited since my leaving the monastery. Don Manuel was so overjoyed at what he heard, that taking me by the hand, and conducting me immediately to his sister's apartment; here is news! (says he, Paula :) Behold (adds he in a transport) Don Cherubin de la Ronda, who loves you more than ever ——— Yes, (fairest of creatures, says I to Donna Paula) love has brought me again at your feet. Heaven satisfied with the struggles I made to tear myself from your beauties, sends you back a lover whom pity would not suffer it to bereave you of. ——— I excuse your struggles, replies she, with a smile; my pride is no ways shocked; and the reverence I bear to the motive which changed your resolution with regard to me, will not permit me to reproach you for it.

How happy are you both (cried my friend.) The moment is now approaching which will compleat your felicity. As for myself (too wretched



wretched sport of Cupid) I have quite lost the hopes of ever possessing Donna Clara. I just now was informed that she had taken the veil; and that the ingrate has left me the cruel task of doing all that lies in my power to forget her. Don Cherubim, added he; you little expected to hear this.-----I was told it before, replied I, by Mileno, whom I happened to meet accidentally, and was strongly affected with your misfortune; however, as I cannot but share your grief, I hope to lighten the burthen of it.

I HAD now a double care; the one to console Don Manuel, and the other to make my court to his charming sister: I acquitted myself so well of both, that I soothed the sorrows of the one, and increased the love of the other. However it must be confessed, that as I inflamed the heart of Donna Paula still more; she on the other side, not only fired mine, but even raised all the passion I had before felt for her.

## CHAP. IX.

*By what Chance Don Cherubim heard of his Sister, and how he was affected with the News. He marries Donna Paula.*

I PASS'D my time very agreeably with young persons of the greatest figure in Alcaraz, expecting daily to be made happy in the possession of Donna Paula; when happening to be one evening at a nobleman's of the greatest distinction in that city, a gentleman came in who was exceedingly caress'd by the whole company. I survey'd this welcome guest, and immediately knew him to be Don Denis Langaruto, the knight of St. Jago, with whose company I had been so delighted at my sister's in Madrid. He also recollected me in a moment, when throwing himself about my neck; excellent Don Cherubim! (says he, in all raptures) one friendly embrace: I am overjoyed to see you.---- That I might not be in arrears with this hugging gentleman, I discovered no less joy than he did: and yet God knows, we neither of us valued the other a farthing.

WE supped together at his house; and there being ten or twelve of us at table, it was scarce possible for the conversation to be always general; so that every one of the guests

U

discoursed

discourfed at intervals apart with his neighbour. Happening to fit next to Don Denis, he and I talked frequently together in a low voice :——Don Cherubim, fays he, I can affure you that I was prodigiously grieved for the fad accident that befel Don Pedro Retortillo, your fifters husband.——I asked him, with an air of furprife, what this accident could be.—Do not you know, fays he, that Don Pedro, being in a party of hunting three months fince, fell from his horfe, and received a blow which killed him in two hours.——I really, fays I, am quite a ftranger to this news; and you will not wonder at it, when I inform you that I fell out with my fifters upon her marrying Don Pedro; and from that time have broke off all correpondence with her. But be fo good (added I) Don Denis, as to tell me, if you yourfelf are fure that what you now inform me is fact. As certain (replies he) as you are there; your brother-in-law met with this catastrophe near Cuenca, not far from his country-feat whither he had carried his lady a few days after their nuptials.

I was fo ftruck with what the knight of St. Jago had told me, that I could not get the thoughts of it out of my head all that night. My fifters, whom I imagined was become indifferent to me, appeared to my imagination in fuch colours, that I found fhe was ftill dear to me; and as  
 the



the motive of our quarrel existed no longer, the ties of blood resumed their former strength.

The moment I saw Don Manuel, I informed him of the fatal accident which I had heard from Don Denis; and then said that I was very anxious to know how matters stood with my sister.——I am as solicitous, replied my friend, as you can be, on this occasion; and therefore, if it suits your inclination, we will both go to Villardesaz, and console the lovely widow, for her loss; not to mention that we shall thereby have an opportunity of seeing Ismenia, who doubtless is still with her.

HOWEVER, continued he, I fancy it will be best for us to put off this journey till after your wedding. This I readily consented to; for though I wanted very much to see my sister, yet I was infinitely more desirous of being joined in Hymen's delightful bands with Donna Paula.

ALL things being got ready for our wedding, I married the charming Donna Paula, who express'd so much satisfaction on this occasion, that I justly thought myself the happiest of men. A fortnight was spent in nothing but concerts, balls and entertainments: so that, had I been a grandee of Spain, my nuptials could scarce possibly have been solemnized with greater magnificence.

## CHAP. X.

*Don Cherubim gets acquainted with a certain Gentleman. The Consequences of it.*

**A**MONG the young gentlemen who were at my wedding, there was one whose noble and graceful mien struck me in a particular manner. The moment I saw him, I asked Don Manuel who that agreeable gentleman was?—His name, replied he, is Don Gregorio de Clevillente.

AT the name of Clevillente, I changed countenance, and was in the utmost confusion; not doubting but that this was the very man who had drawn away my sister Francisca. However, I concealed my perplexity from Don Manuel, who went on as follows.—Don Gregorio stopt at Alcaraz in his way from Calatrava, and is now returning to his seat near Alicant. He seems to me so very accomplished a gentleman, that I am heartily glad I got acquainted with him.

IF Don Gregorio was charmed with Don Manuel, Don Manuel was no less delighted with Don Gregorio, who staid a fortnight at Alcaraz, during which these two gentlemen contracted so great an intimacy, that at first I took umbrage at it. Nevertheless, my Jealousy could not at last withstand the earnest solli-

solicitations made me by Don Gregorio, to favour him with my friendship; and therefore, obliterating whatever ought naturally to oppose it I made the most sincere returns to the testimonies he gave me of his affection. This gentleman, the evening before he set out, expressed the utmost regret at his being obliged to leave us; and at the same time, conjured us so earnestly to spend some days with him at his country-seat, that it was impossible for us to refuse the invitation. I accordingly set out for Clevillente's seat; not that I imagined to myself a pleasure in seeing a house which I (as brother to Francisca) ought to be troubled at beholding; but I was drawn thither by a secret inspiration of heaven, who was determined to make me the instrument of the designs it had in view.

THE first object I took particular notice of in this house, was a boy of eleven or twelve years of age, that flew to Don Gregorio, who after clasping him with the utmost tenderness, presented him to us, saying; Behold the offspring of my first passion.----As the child was very pretty, Don Manuel and I fondled him in our arms for some time; and congratulated Clevillente on his having so promising a son. The father seemed extremely well pleased at the compliment, and said; This boy is the dearer to me, because I have lost his charming mother, whom, alas! I must ever deplore.



SAYING these words, he vented a deep sigh, which I took notice of to him, purposely that I might engage him to relate a story, in which I yet was afraid my sister was concerned——Sir, says I, it must grieve a man to the soul, to find himself bereaved on a sudden of a dearly beloved object.——The person (interrupted he) whose loss I bewail, is not dead; at least I imagine so. But it is now ten years since she vanished on a sudden from this place; and tho' I made the strictest enquiry after the sweet creature, I have not yet been able to get the least information concerning her.

WHAT you now relate, says Don Manuel, gives us a very extraordinary idea of the charms of the lady in question, she surely must have been a miracle in her kind, since the remembrance of her, after so many years separation, gives you such a mixture of pleasure and pain.——I cannot affirm, says Clevillente, that she was a finished beauty; but then she had so winning an aspect, that every beholder could not forbear loving her. You yourself, added he, shall be judge of this, if you will but follow me. Saying these words, he led us into a closet, where among several pictures, I saw that of my sister. The resemblance was so great, that it immediately caught my eye. The only difference was, the copy had a certain bloom of youth, which now was not quite so lively in the original.

THERE,

THERE, says Clevillente, pointing to the picture, is the very image of Francillo's mother. Do not you think I have the greatest reason to bewail the loss of so lovely a woman? — Though I did not take the least notice that I knew this to be Francisca's picture, yet I did not doubt but that Francillo was her son. — I cannot (says I to myself) but fancy that this spurious pretty creature is hers, though she did not once mention him in the relation she gave me of her various adventures. She doubtless thought proper to suppress this incident, to make her story the more innocent. — But afterwards changing my opinion; perhaps, (says I to myself) this may be the natural son of some other girl, whom Clevillente seduced in the same base manner he did my sister.

To excite Don Gregorio the more to go on with his story, I continued as follows: I do not at all wonder at your being so strongly affected with the loss of such a charming woman; but pray, in what manner did you lose her? did she abandon you out of levity, or had you used her ill? — Alas! replied he (with an air of the deepest sorrow) 'tis I only am the aggressor, and this reflection is death to me. Had Donna Francisca quitted me out of inconstancy, I should have forgot her long since; but as I am conscious that she met with the worst of usage from me, I can never blot the enchanting creature from my memory.

I must

I must be so sincere as to confess, that I cannot impute her flight to any thing but my perfidious treatment. After carrying her away, insidiously, from the convent where she was a boarder, I promised, nay I swore to make her my wife; and the poor virtuous creature was seduced, not so much by the violence of my passion, as by my oaths. Notwithstanding this, I was so far from keeping my word, that I amused, I deceived her, and at last quite tired out her patience: So that after spending a twelvemonth with me in this house, she stole away; and could not be diverted from that resolution, though she, just before, had brought me a child; whom I suppose she left behind her, purposely that the sight of him might reproach me perpetually with my base treachery.

THE moment, continued Don Gregorio, that I heard of her elopement, I sent several people after her; but these were so negligent, that they did not get the least tidings of her. From that time I have never enjoyed true peace of mind. Francisca will ever be uppermost in it; and her image, breathing nothing but vengeance, haunts me day and night. I imagine that I see her; I fancy that I hear her, bewailing her credulity, and venting the most bitter imprecations against me.—Perhaps, says I to Clevillente, she may be the very reverse of what you figure her to your own mind; perhaps, accusing herself  
only



Only as the author of all her woes ; the remembrance of the indulgent fondness she once met with from you, may draw tears from her eyes : perhaps too, notwithstanding your ingratitude and perfidy, you may still triumph in her heart. Alas ! (cried he with great emotion) had I but the least hopes of this, and could hear where she is, I would fly on the wings of love ; and, falling prostrate before her, detest the cruel treatment she has met with from me. Yes, I would fly to the dear, lovely, injured creature, were she at the extremity of the earth.----You would not be obliged, replies I, to go so far in search of Francisca, was you sincerely resolved to expiate, by marriage, the mortal wound you gave her virgin honour, and the high insult you thereby committed on her family.---What is that I hear, says Don Gregorio, with an air of astonishment ! Is it possible, Don Cherubim, you should have been acquainted with the lady whose picture you there see ?---Be assured that I am, interrupted I ; and she is not unknown to Don Manuel.

PEDRILLA, at these words, gazing more attentively than before upon the picture, and discovering it to be my sister's : Heavens ! (cries he, dear friend, with an air of confusion) what do I behold ! Alas ! I dare not disclose my thoughts to you ; and rather hope that my eyes impose upon me.-----Far from it, says I, they reveal the truth, but

but too well. Donna Francisca who concealed her true name under that of Basiliſa, ſat for that individual picture. This Clevillente is the very man who ſeduced her, which he himſelf confeſſed to me, little thinking that I am ſo nearly related to her. He ſtole the fond, unthinking girl from a monaſtery in Carthagena, where ſhe was a boarder; and brought her to this country-ſeat. As he carried her off in ſo clandeſtine and villanous a manner, I am bound in honour to demand ſatisfaction for it.---Nevertheless, upon ſecond thoughts, ſince Francisca is a widow, a much better expedient may be found.

Don Gregorio, ſays Pedrilla, ſeems to repent ſo very ſincerely for the unkind treatment which Donna Francisca met with from him, that I am of opinion he would think it his greateſt felicity to marry her.-----Oh! that I ſhould! cried Clevillente; and this you ought to believe, when I ſwear that I have ſuffered the moſt cruel pangs for theſe ten years on that account. Tell me only in what part of Spain ſhe reſides, and I will fly to her this inſtant.---Myſelf ſays I, will be your conductor, that I may be an eye-witneſs of the joy you both muſt ſurely feel at ſo unexpected a meeting. I fancy Don Manuel would gladly give us his company on this occaſion. That I will, with the utmoſt pleaſure, replies Pedrilla. Beſides, there are certain reaſons which prompt me to undertake this journey  
with

with you, abstracted from the complacency and regard you may naturally expect from my friendship.

CHAP. XI.

*The Journey which the three Gentlemen took to the Mansion-house of Villarde-  
faz, and the Consequences of it. Con-  
clusion of the History of the Bachelor  
of Salamanca.*

**W**E all three resolved to set out immediately for Villardefaz, where I supposed Francisca still resided. Accordingly, all things being ready for our departure, we got upon mules; and being attended by three servants mounted after the same manner, we made the best of our way for Cuenca, where we arrived in less than six days.

BEING come to that city, we thought it convenient to put up there, in order to enquire about some particulars we were very desirous of knowing, viz. what was doing at the mansion-house of Villardefaz, which is but a mile and half from the abovementioned city. We were told, that Don Pedro Retortillo had been killed by a fall from his horse, as he was out a hunting; and that his widow, who was still in deep affliction for his death, lived solitary in her mansion-house, with no one



to comfort her, but a she-friend. Don Manuel no sooner heard this last word, but he felt the most thrilling emotions of joy; not doubting but it was his Ismenia, whom he wanted as much to see again, as Don Gregorio could to get a sight of his Francisca.

As we were holding a council, with regard to the manner in which we should discover ourselves to the two ladies in question, a silly thought came into my head; which meeting with the approbation of my fellow-travellers, we resolved to put it immediately in execution.---We bespoke three pilgrims habits, and these being ready, we put them on; when leaving our servants in Cuenca, we set out, and arrived at Villardesaz about the close of the evening. Knocking at the gate, a footman came out; upon which we told him that we were pilgrims who were come from Arragon, and were going to St. James in Galicia, and therefore begged leave to lie in the stables that night. The servant went in, to inform his mistress of our arrival; and returning a moment after, told us that we might lie there; upon which he conducted us to a nook at the farther end of the stable, where was clean straw, and a lamp burning against the wall.-----Friends, says the footman, when any pilgrims travel this way, (as they do very frequently) we always show them here. However you will lie very snug and warm; and, as I do not doubt but you are sharp set, I will

will bring you victuals in a moment. You will find that the lady of this mansion-house is as generous as any you have met with.

He then withdrew, and left us to ourselves; which we desired very much, in order that we might have an opportunity of laughing at the odd kind of hospitable treatment which we supposed were preparing for us.

THE entertainment that such pilgrims as we met with here, formed a very pleasant scene, and accordingly it afforded us infinite mirth. We were impatient for the servant's return, and not a little curious to know what this supper, of which he had boasted so much, could be; when, in about a quarter of an hour after, he came in, with a basket over his arm, in which was bread, cheese, and onions. He was followed by another footman, who brought a large pitcher filled with *la Mancha* wine; when coming up to us, with a smiling countenance; I bring you, says he, refreshments to cheer your spirits: here is food enough, and therefore do not spare it, but cram your bellies. You know it is they that enable the feet to walk.

As this fellow seemed exceedingly fond of his own clack, we asked him a variety of questions concerning his mistress, to all which he returned such discreet and affectionate answers, as shewed he had the highest reverence for her. We gave him an opportunity of re-

lating the sad accident that had befallen Don Pedro every part of which he informed us of, without omitting a single circumstance.-----

Was your lady, says I, very much afflicted at his death?--She is still, replied he, in the deepest sorrow. I could never have believed that a widow could have bewailed the death of her husband so long.-----In all probability, interrupted Don Gregorio, your late master was a very worthy gentleman?--I cannot brag much of that, replied the footman; to be plain with you, he was a queer mortal; in short, a fantastical, jealous pated, crabbed creature. But notwithstanding all these defects, yet there was something in him, which quite charmed my lady.-----But is no friend, says Don Manuel so kind, as to endeavour to alleviate the grief of this lovely widow? That there is, replied the servant; for, besides Signora Ismenia, who has the greatest affection for her, and does all that lies in her power to dispel her melancholy; she is visited almost every day by a young gentleman of Cuenca, who (or I am greatly mistaken) will console her in due time.

The gentleman, continued he, I mean, is one Don Simon de Rommeral. I make no doubt but that he has a strong desire to succeed my late master Signior Don Pedro; and it is my opinion that he does not stand a bad chance. I myself (to whisper a secret to you) have taken notice within these few days, that my



my lady is not so disconsolate as she used to be; whether it be, that the counsels of Donna Ismenia begin to take effect, or that Don Simon has been so happy as to please her.

I now began to fear, from what the footman had observed last to us, that we were come too late; and that this Don Simon had already won her heart. If this be the case, says I to myself, my sister, in all probability, will not thank me for the great pains I am taking to save her honour. Francisca will be no ways pleased to see her first lover, in case she happens to be smit with Don Simon. — Don Gregorio made near the same reflection; so that we both began to question very much, whether our pilgrimage would end propitiously.

WE put so many questions to this fellow (who was no fool) that he at last began to suspect us. Ha! gentlemen, says he, shaking his head, methinks I see the fox under the pilgrim's habit: you are a parcel of wags, or I am greatly mistaken. So far from having a beggarly aspect and carriage, like most who appear in that dress, you seem (let me tell you) to be persons of condition. You certainly put on this disguise, purposely to act some farce; and perhaps you have made choice of this mansion-house for the scene of it. If therefore, gentlemen, (added he) you want a fourth actor to complete your

*Dramatis Personæ*, all my skill and abilities are heartily at your service.

WE took the fellow at his word; and finding that he might be of use, we discovered ourselves to him; and to engage him the more to serve us, we gave him thirty pistoles. By this he found he was not mistaken in the opinion he had entertained of us; and being overjoyed at the pistoles,---gentlemen, says he, lay what commands you please on Clarino, and be assured they shall be punctually obeyed. Tell me only the business you are come upon, and I will certainly do you all the service in my power.---We are all very well acquainted, says I, with the lady of this mansion-house, and her female-friend. But as we have not corresponded with them for some time, it will be a great pleasure to us to try whether they will know us under this disguise. Go, continues I, and whisper to your lady, that if she is desirous of hearing news about Don Cherubim de la Ronda, a pilgrim who is now in the house can gratify her curiosity in this particular. If that is all you want, replied Clarino, it shall be done in an instant.

He then left us, and returning a minute or two after. Follow me, gentle pilgrim, says Clarino; my lady desires to see you. He then conducted me to a noble apartment, where my sister was sitting, with only Ismenia. The instant I came in, they both knew me.

me.---Ah! brother (cries Francisca) how delighted am I to see you again! but why are you thus strangely disguised?---Sister, says I, your wonder will cease when I shall have told you the cause of my pilgrimage. But give me leave first to condole you on the unhappy accident which befel your late husband, Don Pedro. Hearing that you are greatly afflicted at his death, I am come to share your sorrows.

THESE words called up all the widow's grief, and forced tears from her eyes. I now supposed that she was going to vent her complaints anew, and accordingly was preparing to receive them; but Ismenia very happily diverted the impending storm, by saying to Francisca; come, my dear, you have shed tears enough; it is now time to dry them; and your brother must surely be come hither with that design.---Certainly, says I; and I will venture to say that the face of things will soon be changed in this house. I am accompanied by two honest pilgrims, who are resolved to make you all merry.---What pilgrims are these, says Donna Francisca? I will not see them if you do not let me first know who they are.---I beg, says I, to conceal their names; otherwise I shall deprive you of the pleasure of being most agreeably surprised; and therefore I beg they may be brought in this moment.---Upon this Ismenia, calling to Clarino, bid him fetch the two other pilgrims, who were very impatient to play their parts.



THE instant they entered, Ismenia knew Don Manuel; but my sister did not immediately recollect Don Gregorio, who no sooner saw her, but he ran and threw himself at her feet.——Permit, says, he, madam, a wretch, whose breast has been long tortured with the sharpest remorse, to implore your pardon.——Donna Francisca, less struck at these words than with the sound of Clevilente's voice, knew him and fainted away. I naturally supposed, that the sight of Francillo's father must confuse her; but did not think that it would affect her so much.

ISMENIA and I ran immediately to her assistance, when reviving soon again, she continued silent for some moments---She afterwards spoke as follows: Brother, how could you be so imprudent? should you not have prepared me for so killing a sight as Don Gregorio's presence. You cannot be a stranger to the just reasons I have to shun him for ever.—I own says I, my fault, dear sister; and that I ought to have prepared you for the reception of a lover, who cannot expect any thing from you but the most bitter reproaches, and who yet is not altogether unworthy of pardon; since he has acknowledged his guilt to us, and bewailed it these ten years with incessant tears. Permit him to lay his sufferings before you, and deign to hear him. I myself will be answerable for his sincerity.

DEAR

DEAR abused fair one, says Clevillente, be so good as to give me a moment's audience; indulge this favour to the kind intreaties of my worthy friend Dōn Cherubim. How strongly soever you may be prejudiced against me, yet I have some things to plead in my own defence, which I hope will soften your resentment. ——— O what can you offer in your justification, said Don Pedro's widow? Would to heavens you were not the most perfidious, the most ungrateful of your sex. ——— I own my crime, replied Don Gregorio, but then (be witness heaven!) what have I not done to expiate it: ——— He then began the relation of his sufferings, which Ismenia and I let him pursue in private with my sister; and these did not fail to produce a wished for effect, I mean to soften Francisca: whence it must be concluded, that, if a tender passion is sometimes erased by time, yet it may be considered in general, as a half-extinguished fire, which may easily be rekindled.

WHILST these two lovers were entertaining each other in a low voice, I kept my eye upon them, and imagined I saw my sister's anger lessen in a sensible manner. I fancied that my nephew Francillo, so far from being forgot in their discourse, contributed very much to their reconciliation. During this interval, Don Manuel and I told Ismenia how we got acquainted with Don Gregorio; and all  
that

that had passed between this gentleman and us, at Clevillente's country-seat.

I AM overjoyed, says Ismenia, to hear of the repentant return of this perjured lover, whom yet Francisca could never erase entirely from her memory; and you certainly could not have brought him more seasonably. It was high time; for had you come a month hence, you very probably would have found Donna Francisca married. She began to like Don Simon de Rommeral, and I believe would not have refused the ardent desire he has to make her his wife.—Heavens be praised, says I, we are come very a-propos indeed, if my sister does not take it into her head to prefer this new lover to her former.——Fye, replied Ismenia, be not so unjust to Francisca: although inclination should prompt her to make choice of Rommeral, yet she would declare, without the least hesitation, for Clevillente; and the lover offered by Cupid, would be forced to yield to him presented by honour.

NOTWITHSTANDING the various arguments which Ismenia employed, to remove my uneasiness on this account, yet I was afraid that my sister would be of a quite different opinion. However, all my fears happened to be needless. Don Gregorio was a most engaging lover, and could ingratiate himself with the fair, with the happiest address. Accordingly, all Donna Francisca's passion for her forsworn lover revived; and being as well  
skilled



skilled in the art of pleasing as Don Gregorio, she bound him more strongly than ever in her chains. On the other side, Don Manuel was no sooner blessed with the sight of his Ismenia, but he loved her as tenderly as he had done in Madrid; and she shewed plainly enough, by the gracious reception she gave him, that her felicity would depend entirely on him, in case he were desirous of making her his wife.

THESE two pilgrims, who were far from being uneasy in their mistress's company were interrupted by the coming in of a servant, who brought word that supper was ready. And now Don Pedro's widow conducted us into a hall, where was a table covered with a great variety of dishes. At the sight of an entertainment that was equally sumptuous and elegant, I called to mind the cheese and onions which Clarino intended to regale us with.

—— Brother-in-law, says I to Pedrilla; the delicacies here before us, are something better than the fare which was provided for us just now in the stables. What do you think?

THIS reflection made the whole company laugh, and served as a prelude to our future mirth.——Gentlemen, says Ismenia to us; in the habit you were in, we really took you for vagrants; and you must know that we always suit our hospitality to the appearance of our guests; but such pilgrims as you, deserve the handsomest treatment; and accordingly

ingly Francisca and I will give you the best reception in our power. I need not make any protestations to you on that article (added she, to my two companions, smiling) for that you must have perceived before. In fine, our pilgrimage was the only subject of our conversation during supper; and it suggested a thousand conceits, which amused us very agreeably till midnight. Then several servants came with lights, to conduct us to the apartments prepared for us. Thus the three pilgrims, instead of going to the stables, there to lie on straw, went and slept, like so many inquisitors, on beds of the softest down.

THE next morning my sister sent word that she desired a little talk with me in private. Accordingly I went to her chamber, when desiring me to sit down by her bedside; ——— Brother, says she, I forgive Don Gregorio, since he repents sincerely of his crime. He says, that he has been tortured these ten years with the pangs of remorse, and that they have haunted him like so many furies. I find that he hath sought for me every where, in order to expiate, by marriage, the cruel treatment I have met with from him. He has now found me; he offers me his heart with his hand; and, more charmed with me than ever, he swears eternal love. He has revived in my heart all the passion he had raised in it at Carthagená, and I accept of his offer with transport. I was mightily pleased to hear my  
sister

sister talk in this manner.—You act very prudently, says I to her, and I applaud your resolution; Clevillente, you know, first waked a soft passion in your bosom; and as he is possessed of so charming a pledge of your love, you ought to consider him no otherwise than as a husband, who is returned after a long absence.—These words called up a colour in Francisca's cheeks, who said thus to me; you will excuse me, I hope, (brother) for concealing from you the pledge you hinted at. If a too credulous and yielding maid, in the relation of her own story, should suppress certain incidents, this ought not to offend any one.—I freely forgive you, dear sister, says I; but now permit me to turn the discourse to your Francillo. Surely there never was a sweeter child! When once you see him, you will pity him for having been deprived, of your endearing care during his infant years, and confess that he is worthy of both father and mother. To conclude, I was so good an advocate for my young nephew, that the unhappy fate of Francillo quite melted her into tears.—But sister, (says I) Francillo should not now make you weep, since providence has brought you and Clevillente together; and you are going to be united for ever in hymen's blissful bands: for you thereby will raise him to the happiest of conditions, and add a new member to the nobility of Valentia.

AFTER



AFTER having talked for some time about Francillo, I turned the conversation to Don Cæsar our brother, and the large sums he had bequeathed me. My sister, (to do her justice) instead of discovering a regret at her not being joined with me in the will, was so generous as to congratulate me on my good fortune. And indeed, as she was in much better circumstances than I, and going to marry a very wealthy gentleman, it would have been unpardonable in her not to be contented with her condition.

THIS conference ended, I had another with Don Gregorio, whose fondness increased to such a degree that he was extremely impatient to possess Francisca. As I was talking to this gentleman, Don Manuel came up; --- I have left, says he, Ismenia this moment: She has quite enchanted me! and I shall not be easy till we are made one.---Gentlemen, says I, since you are so eager, your felicity must be hastened, and this I will undertake to do. I will go to both your ladies, and acquaint them with your impatience. I am persuaded they will not be so obdurate as to make you languish with expectation. And indeed as soon as they found their admirers were so desirous of tying the blissful knot, they complied instantly with their wishes.

FINDING that all parties were agreed, we held a general council, with regard to the course which we ought to take; and the  
the

the result was, that it would be proper to solemnize these double nuptials at Clevillente's country-seat, for more reasons than one. This being resolved upon, we sent to Cuenca for our servants, &c. and prepared for our departure. We now laid aside our pilgrims habits, and resumed our former ones; and my sister having left the care of her mansion-house in Villardafaz to her farmer, set out, attended by all her servants, with us for Alicante, where we did not arrive till a week after; having travelled slowly, for fear of incommoding the ladies. We made no stay in that city, but proceeded directly to Clevillente's country-seat, where my sister, calling to mind all the sorrows, and perhaps joys, she had tasted there, could not refrain from weeping, which the sight of Francillo increased. But this beautiful child dried up the tears he had caused to flow; and his engaging carriage made his mother so very fond, that she almost idolized him. For besides that she saw, in him, the living image of her self, he was her only son, she having had no children by her two husbands.

AND now, the only things going forward in this country-seat, were the preparations for the nuptials of my brothers-in-law; during which I went to Alcaraz to fetch Donna Paula, without whom our joys would have been imperfect. This took up but six days; at the end of which I returned to Clevillente's

seat with my wife, whose happy arrival heightened the pleasures which abounded there. Ismenia and Donna Francisca received her in the most affectionate manner; and found her temper to be such, as persuaded them, that they should ever live together in the most perfect union.

Don Manuel and Don Gregorio were so assiduous in getting all things ready for the day which was to complete their felicity, that it was soon fixed upon. They received the nuptial blessing then from the bishop of Origuela, who was related to Clevillente. His lordship, (who was a Dominican) having been so kind as to come to the house for that purpose.

THUS Ismenia and my sister were married, after having spent many years in a round of gaiety, they had the good fortune to marry two gentlemen, who falling in love with them, made them their wives, and consequently women of distinction. How wonderful a deity is Cupid! he draws the curtain over the past life of a coquet, when he is determined to marry her to a man of honour.

THESE two weddings, were followed by rejoicings, which lasted above three weeks. And now Don Manuel and I entreated Don Gregorio and his spouse to let us return to Alcaraz; but it was with the utmost difficulty we obtained their consent for that purpose. As Ismenia and my sister had lived for so many



many years in an uninterrupted friendship, she could not be prevailed upon to admit of this separation. However she at last yielded to it, upon the following condition; that we should enjoy each other's company during six months in the year, viz. that Don Manuel and myself with our wives, should go and spend half the summer at Clevillente's country-seat; and that Don Gregorio and my sister should reside half the winter with us in Alcaraz. Thus at last we were permitted to leave them, upon our promising to observe punctually the agreement abovementioned.

F I N I S.

...the could not be prevailed upon to admit of  
the separation. However the at last yielded  
that upon the following conditions: that we  
should enjoy each other's company during the  
months of the year viz. that Don Manuel  
and myself were our winter, should go and  
reside half the summer at Clavell's a corner  
of the ... and ...  
**5 AP 66**  
...should reside half the winter with us in Al-  
... Thus at last we were prevailed to  
leave them upon our promising to observe  
precisely the agreement above mentioned.

1711

